

Levy seeks French aid

PARIS (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy asked for economic aid Tuesday from France to help resettle tens of thousands of Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel. In remarks to journalists, Levy repeated that Israel would refuse to welcome a United Nations mission to investigate the Oct. 8 massacre of Palestinians in Jerusalem. Levy had lunch and one hour of private talks with Foreign Minister Roland Dumas on the third day of his visit to France. Noting that French pressure had helped ease Soviet restrictions on Jewish emigration, Levy asked Dumas to follow through with aid in helping the new arrivals adjust. "As we are receiving the brains, researchers, technicians and scientists, cooperation with France is vital for integration," Levy said. "France can also help us with infrastructure." Levy said he pressed Dumas for French scientific and technological investment and economic and financial aid to settle the Soviet Jews. Dumas gave "a warm response" but no promises, he said. Levy also asked for French cooperation in improving Israeli relations with the 12-nation European Community.

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Jordan urges contributions to UNRWA

UNITED NATIONS (Petra) — Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations, Abdullah Salah, Tuesday appealed to the international community to contribute generously to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to enable it to continue its services to Palestinian refugees. Salah, who was addressing the Special Political Committee on UNRWA, said an increase in contributions to help cover the agency's budget is badly needed to help the agency continue its basic and much-needed services. Salah voiced appreciation for UNRWA's contribution to improving the living conditions of Palestinian refugees through self-help projects to help poor families ensure regular income. However, he noted such contributions are no alternative for the agency's services and should not be a prelude to the liquidation of its services. "As long as the Palestine question remains unresolved, there will be a dire need for UNRWA's services," Salah said.

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House blocs launch intense contacts

AMMAN (Petra) — The various blocs in the Lower House of Parliament are currently holding consultations and contacts to crystallise their stands in preparation for the House's next session and for elections of the House speaker. The National Bloc will hold a meeting Wednesday to discuss the withdrawal of its candidate for the speakership, Saad Hayel Al Surour, in favour of Suleiman Arar, the House's current speaker, who will be the bloc's candidate, according to one of the bloc's members. Deputy Nayef Abu Tayeb of the National Bloc said he quit the bloc and was intending to join the newly-formed Arab Islamic Coalition. Liberals Bloc spokesman Deputy Mohammad Abu Alim said the bloc will discuss in its coming meeting the possibility of joining the Arab Islamic Coalition.

DFLP team visiting Moscow

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A delegation representing the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) is currently on a visit to Moscow for talks with Soviet officials on the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question. The visit to Moscow by the delegation, which is led by DFLP Secretary General Nayef Hawatmeh, comes after delegations representing the DFLP held contacts with His Majesty King Hussein, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and following a meeting for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Central Council.

Qadhafi calls for boycott of holy places

TRIPOLI (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi urged Muslims Tuesday to boycott holy places in Saudi Arabia as long as American forces were deployed there. He told a conference of Muslim leaders they should also put pressure on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, predicting that a catastrophe was inevitable otherwise. "We Muslims cannot perform the Haj or the Umra. There should be a total Muslim strike for one year, two years, as long as American troops stay in Saudi Arabia," he said.

Baker, Shevardnadze to meet next week

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will set out Saturday on a week-long trip to consult with allies on the Gulf crisis, a U.S. State Department official said Tuesday. Baker will meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze at an undisclosed site on the final leg of the trip, said State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler. Baker's will consult with Arab and European allies on future steps in the Gulf crisis, she said. Tutwiler said Baker will visit Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, France and England.

More militias agree to leave Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Three more Syrian-backed militias agreed Tuesday to pull out of Beirut to let the government stamp its authority on the city following the defeat of rebel General Michel Aoun. The Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and both factions of the Syrian Nationalist Social Party (SNSP) said their militias would withdraw from the capital.

Cheney: Force not ruled out in Gulf

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney reaffirmed that the United States had not ruled out the use of force against Iraq and said there was no upper limit on the numbers of troops the United States may deploy in the region. "We have not ruled out the military option. We think it's important that we not eliminate that possibility," Cheney told reporters before addressing the World Affairs Council here.

Iraq orders army alert

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein Tuesday ordered Iraqi military commanders to complete preparations for "urban warfare" in Kuwait because the United States and its allies might attack in "the next few days," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. The move appeared to be in reaction to statements by U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker that the United States was prepared to take military action against Iraq if necessary to force it out of Kuwait.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher contributed to the sudden escalation in tension by saying that the multinational forces in the Gulf had all the authority they needed for action against Iraq. "We already have full legal authority under (United Nations) Article 51 and by the request of the Emir of Kuwait," Thatcher said in response to a parliamentary question. Asked if the U.S., British and other forces ranged against Iraq were prepared to let economic sanctions take their course before resorting to military action, she added: "We would not believe in letting any aggressor know what action or when we propose to take it."

struck a more cautious note. He told INA that Iraq was prepared to talk with "any Arab or international party" provided it is not "prompted by premeditated hostile designs." Aziz was commenting on remarks by the Soviet and French presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and Francois Mitterrand in Paris Monday. Aziz said their joint news conference contained certain "improved positive elements." "Iraq will respond with an open mind and good will to efforts made by the Soviet Union and France on the basis of President Saddam Hussein's initiative of Aug. 12," Aziz said in a reference to proposals by the Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz

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U.S. reportedly to discuss timing for possible assault

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — U.S. government officials — believing sanctions will not force Iraq to pull out of Kuwait — plan to discuss a timetable with U.S. allies for a possible military offensive, it was reported Tuesday.

In his visits to Europe, Saudi Arabia and other Arab states, Secretary of State James Baker assess the impact of the U.N.-backed embargo and consider additional steps, including the use of force, the Los Angeles Times said.

President George Bush, asked about the report at the White

House Tuesday, told reporters, "I could, but I'm not going to comment."

The newspaper says a senior government official who is involved in Gulf strategy considers war almost inevitable. The official, whose name was not disclosed, is quoted as saying: "I know of no one who disagrees with my assessment of the situation and what we have to do to achieve our goals."

The official said the most likely time for an offensive would be in December or January, "although it could come earlier or a little later," the newspaper reported.

In an address to the Los Angeles World Affairs Council on Monday,

Baker reaffirmed that the United States strongly prefers a peaceful solution consistent with the mandate of U.N. Security Council resolutions. However, he added: "Let no one doubt: We will not rule out a possible use of force if Iraq continues to occupy Kuwait."

He said Iraq must realise "there is a limit to the international community's patience." The Times quotes another U.S. official as saying it is the United States that cannot wait indefinitely. Baker travels to Saudi Arabia and the other countries starting Friday.

Bush met with lawmakers at the White House Tuesday, a day after he

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Iraq unveils 'secret letter' on Kuwait-CIA conspiracy

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iraq said Tuesday that a secret document seized in Kuwait reveals a conspiracy between the U.S. and Kuwait intelligence services in plotting against Iraq.

The document, undated and labeled "top secret and private," is said to be a letter from the head of Kuwait's state security department to the minister of the interior, concerning a meeting at the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) headquarters from Nov. 12-15, 1989.

It was seized during Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, Iraq said. Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz sent a copy of the letter to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and requested that the letter be circulated as document of the Security Council, which is considering the Gulf crisis.

Aziz said that the document "clearly and unequivocally confirms the connivance between the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and the intelligence services of the former Kuwaiti government in plotting against Iraq's national security, territorial integrity and national economy."

The letter was sent by Brigadier Fahd Ahmad Al Fahd, director-general of the state security department of Kuwait, to interior minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah. The letter says that the CIA emphasised the visit should be top secret, "in order not to arouse sensitivities among our brothers in the Gulf cooperation council, Iran and Iraq."

It describes an agreement reached with William Webster, director of the CIA, in a private meeting on Nov. 14,

1989. The letter says both sides agreed "it was important to take advantage of the deteriorating economic situation in Iraq in order to put pressure on that country's government to delineate our common border."

It said the CIA suggested — without being specific — "appropriate means of pressure" on Iraq and high-level coordination of such activities through exchanges between the Kuwaiti state security department and the CIA.

The two sides would exchange information on "the armaments and social and political structures of Iran and Iraq," it said, suggesting that Kuwait should avoid contact with Iran while exerting economic pressure on it.

It added the United States was willing to provide information on extremist groups in Kuwait and on other states of the Gulf Cooperation Council — Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman.

Webster said the CIA was "willing to take joint steps to eliminate points of tension in the Gulf region," it said. It said the CIA would train 128 bodyguards for key members of Kuwait's royal family.

It also said the U.S. officials put a special telephone number in Kuwait's disposal, and identified the number as Webster's private line. When a reporter called the number, it yielded only prolonged, high-pitched tone.

The CIA had no immediate comment on the purported letter and a spokesman said a fax of it would be studied.

Jordanians to boycott Hajj if Western force still in S. Arabia

By John Halaby
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Faqir has said that Jordanians would boycott the annual pilgrimage of Hajj to Mecca next year if Western troops were still in Saudi Arabia.

Faqir also warned that if U.S.-led multinational troops attacked Iraq, all Muslims, including Jordanians, would declare a holy war against the Western force.

"All Muslims, including Jordanians, will boycott pilgrimage next June if these non-Muslim troops are still present in our holy land," Faqir said in an interview Monday.

"Muslim pilgrims will not be safe so long as these troops are occupying our sacred shrines," he said, without elaboration.

Every year, 20,000 Jordanians attended the pilgrimage, which is prescribed as a religious duty for all Muslims at least once in a lifetime.

More than 1.5 million Muslims attended this year's pilgrimage.

The minister criticised the presence of the multi-national forces in Saudi Arabia and said: "All the lands of the Arab Peninsula are sacred and could not be occupied by any other non-Islamic force."

The presence of the Western troops there is completely rejected and is illegal under

Islamic laws," the minister added.

The presence of the Western forces has been most strenuously criticised by Iran, which wants the holy sites of Mecca and Medina to be under international Muslim control, and not that of the Saudi royal family.

Earlier this month, a group of Islamic scholars declared the presence of the multi-national force in the Gulf was tantamount to an aggression which Muslims will resist by force.

The group, which included Faqir and prominent religious leaders here, urged rulers of Arab and Islamic countries to unify and evict the foreign forces from the Arabian Peninsula.

Faqir, who is also a member of parliament, warned that if Western troops attacked Iraq, all Muslims "will declare holy war against those troops and we will fight them by all means."

"If war breaks out in the Gulf, millions of Muslims will volunteer to fight American troops everywhere," Faqir said. "We will not hesitate to help the Islamic sister nation, Iraq, against the foreign aggression."

Many radical Islamic groups have vowed to fight Western troops and launch attacks against Western interests in the region if Iraq were attacked.

Qasem welcomes Soviet statements

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Tuesday welcomed Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's call for an Arab meeting to find a solution to the Gulf crisis and said the Kingdom had been calling for such a move from the very beginning. "Jordan welcomes any constructive move to find a political settlement to the Gulf crisis," Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marawan Al Qasem said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"Jordan has, since the start of the crisis, called for the need to give a chance and to support Arab efforts to settle the crisis," the minister said.

Qasem said Jordan saw as positive Gorbachev's statement at a press conference with French President Francois Mitterrand in Paris Monday.

The Soviet and French positions on the Gulf are in harmony, Mitterrand said.

Gorbachev said that his country rejected a military solution to the Gulf crisis and called for an inter-Arab meeting to resolve the problem peacefully.

"We welcome such positive statements coming from heads of two U.N. Security Council permanent member states," said Qasem. France and the Soviet Union, he added, "are convinced that Arab Nations should be given the chance to play a major role in handling the Gulf crisis backed by the international community."

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Bloodshed unabated in occupied lands

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian was shot dead after attacking an Israeli and another died allegedly when a bomb he was planting blew up in his face Tuesday in a resurgence of Israeli-Palestinian bloodshed.

Knife and hammer attacks by Palestinians last week prompted the occupation authorities to announce Monday it was toughening entry conditions to the Jewish state for Palestinians of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

On Tuesday a Palestinian stabbed a Jewish guard of a petrol tanker making deliveries in the West Bank city of Nablus. The wounded guard shot dead his attacker, Palestinians said.

The army declared the city of more than 100,000 Palestinians a closed military area. A group called the Black Panthers claimed responsibility for the stabbing.

Near Tel Aviv, one Arab man was killed and two others were injured

when a bomb they were planting in a vegetable shop went off in their faces, according to a police report.

The three men worked at the shop in the Jewish religious suburb of Bnei Brak and were placing the bomb before it opened for business, army radio said.

In Arab Jerusalem, a Palestinian man stabbed an Israeli policeman in the chest at the central bus depot, police said. The officer was slightly wounded; the attacker was caught.

Police said they also arrested a 14-year-old Palestinian holding an oil can near the U.S. consulate in Arab Jerusalem where petrol bombs have been thrown in the past.

Last week three Israelis were stabbed to death in a quiet neighbourhood of West Jerusalem by a Palestinian who told police he was avenging the Oct. 8 massacre of Palestinians in Jerusalem.

Seven Israelis were wounded in hammer and knife attacks by Palestinians last week.

The bloodshed led the Israeli army to bar all 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupied territories from entering

Israel for four days.

It reopened the occupied territories Sunday but Monday announced plans to curb access to Israel for some 120,000 Palestinian workers from the occupied territories.

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens decided after meeting officials of the army, police and Shin Bet secret police to bar thousands of Palestinians promoting resistance against the Jewish state, including protests in the 34-month-old Palestinian uprising.

Israeli news reports said 7,000 Palestinians would be forbidden from entering Israel in addition to the estimated 8,000 already barred. An aide to Arens would not confirm this.

Arens warned Israelis Tuesday of further Palestinian revenge attacks. "The wave has not yet passed," Arens told parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee.

Committee members quoted Arens as saying: "We must be ready for a period which will not be easy, in which efforts will be made to harm civilians both from outside Israel and also from inside Israeli territory."

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'Israel planned massacre'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Senior Muslim leaders in the Holy Land accused Israeli police Tuesday of planning the Oct. 8 massacre of Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem with government approval.

An inquiry appointed by the Supreme Islamic Council said police fired indiscriminately at Palestinians at the Al Aqsa Mosque complex.

It rejected the findings of an Israeli government-appointed investigation which blamed the vio-

lence on Palestinian protesters who threw stones at Israelis.

The four-man inquiry headed by an Islamic religious court judge said in a 10-page report that the shooting was "a premeditated, well-planned operation by the command of the border guards and the police."

These two commands would not have committed this massacre without a green light from the political echelon of the Israeli leadership," it said.

The report was presented to

the press by the 82-year-old mufti of Jerusalem, Saadine Al Alami, and members of the Islamic council.

It said police opened fire without justification on Muslims who had thronged the Al Aqsa complex fearing that a small group of ultra-nationalist Jews would attempt to lay a symbolic cornerstone there for the rebuilding of a Jewish temple.

Islamic council member

Jordan says it unable to help evacuees unless reimbursed

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan, flooded with refugees after Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, warned the world Tuesday it might be unable to deal with more evacuees if a Gulf war breaks out unless the Kingdom is reimbursed for the expenses it has already incurred on extending facilities to the evacuees since Aug. 5.

More than 715,000 Arab and Asian refugees have crossed to Jordan since the crisis began 12 weeks ago because the Kingdom was the only country neighbouring Iraq that fully opened its border.

In contrast with a once-massive flood of refugees to Jordan, only a few near-penniless Asian and Egyptian refugees now arrive each day.

Salameh Hamad, head of a ministerial evacuation committee, said his task force had borrowed \$60 million from the cash-strapped government and would be unable to cope with another influx unless other countries provided money they had promised.

He said the committee had so far received just over \$8 million, most of it from the European Community (EC), the United Nations Disaster and Relief Organisation (UNDRO) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

"If there is war, we will be unable to cope with an expected flood of people transiting Jordan if our outstanding expenses are not covered," Hamad told Reuters in an interview.

The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has been backing the committee in getting needed money from commercial banks, some of which were becoming impatient because of the task force's inability to pay back the loans, Hamad said.

"But we cannot go on pressuring the state treasury which is already facing tremendous problems," he said.

Hamad said many Western governments and international bodies had promised financial help when the influx started on Aug. 5, three days after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Officials complain that many donors are lumping in Jordan's refugee assistance costs with other funds promised to compensate the millions of dollars the Kingdom has lost because of its adherence to a U.N. embargo against Iraq, its main trading partner.

Foreign donors channelled most funds for the relief effort to international agencies rather than the government.

"At the beginning, they all promised to cover the cost of our work because of the human and international dimension. But when the number of evacuees gradually began decreasing, these promises became part of a mirage," Hamad said.

About 3,383 Asians were waiting at two camps in Jordan on Tuesday for flights home. Most of the recent evacuees stay in Jordan less than two days.

Hamad said plans were under way to build two hangars at Al Ruweished, Jordan's eastern border checkpoint with Iraq, to protect refugees from harsh winter conditions. The two pre-fabricated shelters will take up to 1,000 people.

New House coalition sets eyes beyond speakership

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The formation of a new parliamentary coalition which groups Muslim Brotherhood members with independent Islamists, liberals and pan-Arabists could be the latest step taken in assuring an influential official role for Islamists in the Lower House of Parliament, government insiders said Tuesday.

Some parliament observers told the Jordan Times that the main intention of the grouping at this stage is to ensure the election of an Islamist candidate, most certainly Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Abdul Latif Arabyat, as speaker of the House in return for certain concessions.

The main contenders to the speakership at this stage are the incumbent, Suleiman Arar, and Arabiyat, spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood. But other poten-

tial candidates are still in the running.

The new "Arab Islamic Coalition" could easily ensure the speakership for the coalition's candidate since it has 42 members in the 80-member House to secure the needed majority. "But this of course depends on the coalition holding together," an observer noted.

The new coalition includes the 22 Muslim Brotherhood deputies and the eight-member independent Islamic Bloc, which was formed last December.

While the Islamic Bloc has already announced that one of its members, Karak Deputy Atef Boush, would be running for the speakership, observers believe that the different blocs in the coalition would come to an agreement whereby all would be satisfied with their demands.

The coalition includes some erst-

while members of the mainly leftist Democratic Bloc such as Salim Zoubi and Hussein Mujalli. The newly formed seven-member Liberal Bloc, which broke away from the 24-member National Bloc, a conglomeration of traditionalist and would-be liberal parliamentarians has also joined forces with the coalition, according to a prominent member of the bloc Ajloun Deputy Issa Rimoni.

While senior government officials have denied that negotiations are under way to give Muslim Brotherhood members certain cabinet posts in a reshuffle, the observers see the latest coalition as a pressure group.

"Such a grouping is exactly what many deputies need right now," said a self-styled liberal member of parliament. "It is the ideal way to go about parliamentary politics. The main aim of any deputy is to achieve as much as possible of his

election programme. If he can do that only by forging 'strange' political alliances then that's what he has to do," said the parliamentarian.

The predominantly leftist eight-member Democratic Bloc has not been officially invited to join the coalition, but its members are studying the possibility of collaborating with the new group.

"We and the political forces we represent, namely those members of the Jordanian Arab Nationalist, Democratic Alliance (JANDA), have left the door open for cooperation with different political trends in the country. If we can agree on a basic programme with the coalition we would consider joining it," said one member of the Democratic Bloc.

During the last election for speakership of the House the nominee of the Muslim Brotherhood and Islamic deputies was in-

dependent Islamist Yousef Mbeiden who was defeated by Arar, a liberal, with support from a short-lived coalition of 40 deputies joined by the Democratic Bloc. Mbeiden went on to become justice minister in Mr. Mudar Badran's government.

Spokesman for the hudding 42-member coalition have stressed that the grouping intends to gather the largest number of deputies possible in order to execute a certain "programme" through the House with a possible two-thirds majority.

"The intention of the grouping is not just to get a certain deputy elected as speaker of the House," one of the spokesmen contended. Independent observers have stressed, however, that a cabinet reshuffle could ultimately rest on who wins the race for the House speakership after parliament reconvenes Nov. 18.

Tehran daily hits Saudi visit

NICOSIA (AP) — The visit to Iran by a senior Saudi envoy indicates that Tehran and Riyadh may be close to reestablishing ties cut when hundreds of Iranian pilgrims were shot down in Mecca in 1989, Tehran sources said.

Saudi Deputy Foreign Minister Abdul Rahman Mansuri's arrival in Tehran Friday, the first Saudi official visit since ties were severed, caps weeks of Saudi efforts to narrow the rift with Iran, the sources said.

The Saudis cut their ties with Iran in the closing stages of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Jomhuri Islami's commentary was carried by Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency and was monitored in Nicosia.

The daily stressed that Riyadh would have to meet two main preconditions before a resumption of diplomatic relations.

It said the first was heeding Iran's call for ordering out the U.S.-led multinational force the Saudis requested.

The presence of the Western forces in Saudi Arabia, the paper said, "is similar to the military occupation of Kuwait by Iraq, and is even worse."

Saudi Arabia's rulers have been under pressure from many Muslim countries to tell the Westerners to leave the country that contains Islam's holiest places.

Iran's second precondition was that Iranian Muslims on the annual pilgrimage to the Saudi cities of Mecca and Medina, be allowed to stage political demonstrations. Jomhuri Islami stressed.

The Iranians have insisted that staging protests demonstrating "antipathy towards pagans," is a cornerstone of the pilgrimage.

UNRWA sees larger role, little funds

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The combined pressures of the Palestinian intifada and the Gulf crisis can only increase demand for additional humanitarian services to Palestine refugees, United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli said at the United Nations in New York Monday. However, he said, the agency was already facing serious financial difficulties which threaten its current emergency programmes in Lebanon and the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Speaking to the U.N. General Assembly's Special Political Committee in presenting his annual report for the year up to June 30, 1990, Giacomelli said "the explosive interplay of pressures, expectations and frustrations" was growing in the occupied territories. Added to this, he said, many Palestinians had left the Gulf region, where they had enjoyed employment opportunities.

Giacomelli said hundreds of millions of dollars in income and remittances from the Gulf had stopped reaching Palestinian families in refugee camps and elsewhere. "Thus, more people are pressing the agency for assistance and services. Our capacity to respond to these additional requirements, which will gradually affect the full spectrum of services including relief and health besides education, has already reached its limit."

The Gulf crisis not only meant lost incomes and job opportunities for Palestinians, but could also have a negative effect on the financing of UNRWA, which has received contributions from the region, Giacomelli told the committee.

Noting that generous financial aid had been promised to countries which stand to lose most from the crisis, he said: "I hope the international community will appreciate that, although most Palestinians are uprooted refugees, they are part and parcel

of the regional reality and should receive their share of what is allocated to those who are bearing most of the burden of the current situation. UNRWA, with its large network of health, education and other essential services, is a primary channel to be used for this purpose."

While the voluntary funding of UNRWA's regular programmes by the international community was being maintained, funding for the agency's emergency activities in Lebanon and the occupied territories was drying up. To meet commitments until the end of this year, he said, funds were being deployed from UNRWA's regular budget. However, no funding had been obtained for vital emergency assistance for 1991.

"The agency may soon face the option of either reducing emergency assistance altogether or cutting into the flesh of its regular programme, the financing of which is by no means assured, at a time when needs are increasing," Giacomelli warned.

The commissioner-general said UNRWA's mission required the total understanding of the international community. This must be reflected in financial support, "as a fall below a minimum level of emergency assistance and regular programme delivery would be tantamount to abandoning the refugees, and it certainly would be interpreted as such by them."

Giacomelli said at the present time political leaders were faced with "the options of war and reconciliation, the support of old friends or the establishment of new alliances, while national and political sympathies shift." The short-term political inclinations of leaders or groups should not be the sole yardstick used to measure levels of humanitarian support, he said.

Delegation from Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Italy (for the European Community) and Chile also spoke at Monday's session.

Ten Security Council resolutions against Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Since Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, the 15-member Security Council has passed 10 resolutions condemning Baghdad:

Aug. 3 — It voted 14-0 to condemn the invasion and demand the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraq's troops. Kuwait, the only Arab member for the council, abstained on Resolution 660.

Aug. 6 — It voted 13-0 to order a trade and financial embargo of Iraq and Kuwait. Cuba and Yemen abstained on Resolution 661.

Aug. 9 — It voted 15-0 to declare Iraq's annexation of Kuwait null and void in international law, in Resolution 662.

Aug. 18 — It voted 15-0 to demand that Iraq free all detained foreigners, in Resolution 664.

Aug. 25 — It voted 13-0 to give the United States and other naval powers the right to enforce the economic embargo against Iraq and Kuwait by halting shipping to those countries. Cuba and Yemen abstained on Resolution 665.

Sept. 13 — It voted 13-2 to allow humanitarian food aid into Iraq or Kuwait only "to relieve human suffering," and said only the council could decide when those circumstances exist. Cuba and

Yemen voted against Resolution 666.

Sept. 16 — It voted 15-0 to condemn Iraq's "aggressive" acts against diplomatic missions in Kuwait, including the abduction of foreigners who were in the buildings, in adopting Resolution 667.

Sept. 24 — It voted 15-0 to stress that only its sanctions committee has the power to permit food, medicine or other humanitarian aid to be sent into Iraq or Kuwait, in adopting Resolution 669.

Sept. 25 — It voted 14-1 to explicitly expand its economic embargo to include all air traffic in or out of Iraq and Kuwait, except for cargoes of humanitarian aid specifically authorised by its sanctions committee. It also calls on U.N. member nations to detain any Iraqi ships that may be used to break the naval embargo. Cuba voted against Resolution 670.

Oct. 29 — It voted 13-0 to hold Iraq liable for war damages and economic losses, to ask nations to collect evidence of grave rights abuses by Iraqi forces, to demand that the Western embassies in Kuwait City be restocked with food and water, and to demand that all "hostages" be released. Cuba and Yemen abstained on Resolution 674.

Security Council says Iraq responsible for losses

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N. Security Council has adopted its tenth resolution aimed at forcing Iraq out of Kuwait, calling on states to collect evidence of human rights abuses and of financial losses caused by the invasion.

Following is the text of the resolution:

The Security Council, Recalling its Resolutions 600 (1990), 661 (1990), 662 (1990), 664 (1990), 665 (1990), 666 (1990), 667 (1990) and 670 (1990)

Stressing the urgent need for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all Iraqi forces from Kuwait, for the restoration of Kuwait's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and of the authority of its legitimate government.

Condemning the actions by the Iraqi authorities and occupying forces to take third State nationals hostage and to mistreat and oppress Kuwaiti and third State nationals, and the other actions reported to the council such as the destruction of Kuwaiti demographic records, forced departure of population in Kuwait and the unlawful destruction and seizure of public and private property in Kuwait including hospital supplies and equipment, in violation of the decisions of this council, the Charter of the United Nations, the Fourth Geneva Convention, the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations and international law.

Expressing grave alarm over the situation of nationals of third States in Kuwait and Iraq, including the personnel

of the diplomatic and consular missions of such States.

Reaffirming that the Fourth Geneva Convention applies to Kuwait and that as a High Contracting Party to the Convention Iraq is bound to comply fully with all its terms and in particular is liable under the Convention in respect of the grave breaches committed by it, as are individuals who commit or order the commission of grave breaches.

Recalling the efforts of the Secretary-General concerning the safety and well being of third State nationals in Iraq and Kuwait.

Deeply concerned at the economic cost, and at the loss and suffering caused to individuals in Kuwait and Iraq as a result of the invasion and occupation of Kuwait by Iraq.

Acting under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, Reaffirming the goal of the international community of maintaining international peace and security by seeking to resolve international disputes and conflicts through peaceful means.

Recalling also the important role that the United Nations and its Secretary-General have played in the peaceful solution of disputes and conflicts in conformity with the provisions of the United Nations Charter.

Alarmed by the dangers of the present crisis caused by the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait, directly threatening international peace and security, and seeking to avoid any further worsening of the situation.

Calling upon Iraq to comply with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, in par-

ticular Resolutions 660 (1990), 662 (1990) and 664 (1990). Reaffirming its determination to ensure compliance by Iraq with the Security Council resolutions by maximum use of political and diplomatic means.

1. Demands that the Iraqi authorities and occupying forces immediately cease and desist from taking third State nationals hostage, and mistreating and oppressing Kuwaiti and third State nationals, and from any other actions such as those reported to the council and described above, violating the decisions of this Council, the Charter of the United Nations, the Fourth Geneva Convention, the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations and international law;

2. Invites States to collate substantiated information in their possession or submitted to them on the grave breaches by Iraq as per paragraph 1 above and to make this information available to the Council;

3. Reaffirms its demand that Iraq immediately fulfill its obligations to third State nationals in Kuwait and Iraq, including the personnel of diplomatic and consular missions, under the Charter, the Fourth Geneva Convention, the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations, general principles of international law and the relevant resolutions of the Council;

4. Reaffirms further its demand that Iraq permit and facilitate the immediate departure from Kuwait and Iraq of

those third State nationals, including diplomatic and consular personnel, who wish to leave;

5. Demands that Iraq ensure the immediate access to food, water and basic services necessary to the protection and well being of Kuwaiti nationals and of nationals of third States in Kuwait and Iraq, including the personnel of diplomatic and consular missions in Kuwait;

6. Reaffirms its demand that Iraq immediately protect the safety and well being of diplomatic and consular personnel and premises in Kuwait and in Iraq, take no action to hinder these diplomatic and consular missions in the performance of their functions, including access to their person and interests and rescind its orders for the closure of diplomatic and consular missions in Kuwait and the withdrawal of the immunity of their personnel;

7. Requests the Secretary-General, in the context of the continued exercise of his good offices concerning the safety and well being of third State nationals in Iraq and Kuwait, to seek to achieve the objectives of paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 and in particular the provision of food, water and basic services to Kuwaiti nationals and to diplomatic and consular missions in Kuwait and the evacuation of third State nationals;

8. Reminds Iraq that under international law it is liable for any loss, damage or injury arising in regard to Kuwait and third States, and their nationals and corporations, as a result of the invasion and illegal

occupation of Kuwait by Iraq;

9. Invites States to collect relevant information regarding their claims, and those of their nationals and corporations, for restitution or financial compensation by Iraq with a view to such arrangements as may be established in accordance with international law;

10. Requires that Iraq comply with the provisions of the present resolution and its previous resolutions, failing which the council will need to take further measures under the Charter.

11. Decides to remain actively and permanently seized of the matter until Kuwait has regained its independence and peace has been restored in conformity with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

12. Reposes its trust in the Secretary-General to make available his good offices and, as he considers appropriate, to pursue them and undertake diplomatic efforts in order to reach a peaceful solution to the crisis caused by the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 660 (1990), 662 (1990) and 664 (1990), and calls on all States, both those in the region and others, to pursue on this basis their efforts to this end, in conformity with the Charter, in order to improve the situation and restore peace, security and stability;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council on the results of his good offices and diplomatic efforts.

Sudan: No foreign relief will be accepted

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan has said it will accept no more food relief even if a famine emergency existed, which doesn't.

The declaration from the ruling junta's chief financial spokesman came on the heels of a statement by Omar Hassan Al Bashir, the military leader, indirectly accusing the United States of spreading false reports that Sudan faces ruinous famine.

The motive of such a campaign, Bashir said Sunday, is to make Sudan's military government look bad. "Sudan is not suffering from any famine in whatever form," Bashir said.

"Those who speak of famine in Sudan are only seeking to tarnish and create difficulty for the government."

On Monday, junta member Saladdin Karar told the official Sudan News Agency: "We will never accept any food assistance, even if famine is declared in Sudan."

Karar charged that international relief agencies are "responsible to a great extent" for Sudan's current "food gap," or shortfall in grain supplies, because they have bought large quantities of Sudan's staple sorghum on the open market to feed refugees.

This resulted in price increases for sorghum that put it beyond the means of many Sudanese who otherwise would have been able to buy food, Karar said.

Karar, head of the junta's economic affairs committee, said if relief organisations want to help the country and feed people displaced by hunger, "they should bring their food from outside Sudan."

Karar also attacked foreign news media which he said are reporting that sorghum production will fall but are ignoring the government's change in agricultural policies. Sudan no longer depends solely on rain-fed projects but also is banking to a greater extent on lands in central Sudan irrigated by Nile River water.

"A million feddans (acres) of sorghum have been cultivated this year in the irrigated areas," he said. "This is expected to yield 700,000 tonnes in addition to the harvest of central Sudan's rain-fed areas."

The foreign press campaign seeks to "demoralise the Sudanese and ridicule the government's slogan 'we eat from what we cultivate,'" Karar said.

In a talk to Sudanese media leaders on Sunday, Bashir did not mention the United States by name. But most discussion of Sudan's plight has come from Washington.

A U.S. House subcommittee on foreign affairs held hearings last week at which witnesses testified that a horrendous drought is coming to the country. They urged the junta to announce a famine emergency in Sudan so an international relief operation can proceed.

Roger Winter, director of the U.S. Committee for Refugees, a private group, said famine "of biblical dimensions" threatens as many as 11 million Sudanese.

And Andrew Natsios, the U.S. government's top relief official, accused Bashir's government of being "increasingly indifferent if not overtly hostile to the relief efforts."

In his Sunday comments, distributed by Sudan News Agency, Bashir acknowledged that Africa's largest country has food shortages caused by late and insufficient summer rains.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Islamic states question Israeli credentials

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Thirty-one Arab and Islamic countries, including both Iraq and Kuwait, expressed reservations Monday about the credentials of Israel's General Assembly delegation and reserved the right to raise the matter at an appropriate time. Israel's credentials have been questioned every year since 1982. But each time the Assembly has discussed the report of its credentials committee it has voted to take no action on the challenge. In a letter to the U.N. secretary general, the representatives of the 31 countries accused Israel of violating the U.N. Charter, U.N. resolutions and international law. They referred particularly to the Israel's proclamation of Jerusalem as its capital, where its credentials were issued; its occupation of southern Lebanon; its refusal to implement resolutions dealing with the rights of the Palestinians; its suppression of the 35-month-long Palestinian intifada; and the establishment of settlements in the occupied territories.

Protesters set fire to car in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Police fired tear-gas to disperse youngsters who broke shop windows and set fire to a car in central Tunis, the government newspaper La Presse said Tuesday. Eyewitnesses said police made several arrests during the disturbances, which took place at rush hour outside the capital's main train and bus station Monday night. Sources close to Tunisia's Islamic movement said 200 youngsters were demanding the release of Islamic militants detained in the southern suburbs of Tunis last Friday. La Presse said the demonstrators were led by men in beards and described them as "vandals of God."

Ethiopian president arrives in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam arrived in Egypt Tuesday on a two-day visit to discuss the Gulf crisis and developments in the Horn of Africa. Greeted at the airport by President Hosni Mubarak, he was given a red carpet reception and 21-gun salute. He gave no statement to reporters.

Canadian chief of defence staff in Qatar

NICOSIA (R) — Canada's Chief of Defence Staff General A.G. Dechaetel had talks Tuesday with his Qatari counterpart, the Qatari News Agency said. The agency gave no details but the Gulf crisis was expected to dominate his meeting with Sheikh Hamad bin Abdullah Al Thani. A Canadian embassy spokesman in Riyadh said Deputy Defence Minister Robert Fowler, accompanied by Dechaetel, went to Qatar from Saudi Arabia Tuesday on the third and final leg of a Gulf tour.

Manila concerned about Japanese plan

MANILA (R) — President Corason Aquino said Tuesday the Philippines is concerned about plans by Japan to deploy its troops in the Gulf and it might be better for Tokyo to concentrate on helping struggling Third World nations. Aquino made the remarks during a lunch forum with foreign correspondents in Manila after Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said the plan was causing concern in Southeast Asia because memories remained fresh of the brutal occupation of the region by Japanese troops. "In a way, I do agree with Secretary Manglapus. There is a bit of concern," in the Philippines, Aquino said. "However, we believe that since Japan is now an economic power, they would be more concerned with the economy rather than becoming another military power. I hope that Japan will continue to involve itself with helping the economies of developing nations," she added.

Airline traffic drops because of Gulf crisis

BRUSSELS (AP) — European airline traffic to the Near and Middle East dropped considerably because of the Gulf crisis and passenger growth in Europe slowed down in September, the Association of European Airlines (AEA) said in a statement Monday. The 21-member AEA said that because of the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and subsequent international tension, "Near and Middle Eastern routes showed a substantial loss of traffic." September figures showed it declined by 15.2 per cent compared to last year. The increase in European traffic still stood at a healthy 7.5 per cent in September compared to the year earlier, but was disappointing since the average growth in the first eight months of the year was over 12 per cent, the AEA said. The AEA could not pin down the reasons for the decline in European passenger growth.

Iraq drops charges against two Irishmen

DUBLIN (AP) — Iraqi authorities have dropped charges against two Irishmen detained for trying to leave the country without visas, the Department of Foreign Affairs said Tuesday. The men were detained Aug. 29 and imprisoned Sept. 12 awaiting trial. Both had been working in Iraq for the Tipperary-based engineering firm of M.F. Kent. A spokesman for the department said a third Irishman detained Sept. 1 remained in a Baghdad prison. He also faces charges of trying to leave the country without the required documents. The spokesman did not identify the men. In addition to those jailed on the charges, another 225 Irish citizens are known to be detained in Iraq. On Monday, two Irish opposition lawmakers said they would go ahead with a visit to Iraq despite pledges during the European Community (EC) summit in Rome last weekend that EC government would discourage such contact with the Iraqi government. Michael D. Higgins, a Labour Party legislator from Galway, said he intended to fly to Baghdad Thursday "in response to a request from the Gulf Relatives Support Committee."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programme
16:30 Educational programme
16:40 News summary in Arabic
16:45 Cairo news message
16:50 Local programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Arabic programme
22:00 News in Arabic
23:00 Play

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Destination Santa
18:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 One Foot in the Grave
21:10 Economic Perspective
22:00 News in English
22:30 Family of Spies

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637140
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzianita Church Tel. 623666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Assyrian Church Tel. 623583, Tel. 623543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assyrian International Church Tel. 683736
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 611295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 615817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Unstable weather conditions will prevail. There will be a chance for scattered showers of rain in the eastern parts of

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. David Al Samouni 689535
Dr. Arafat Al Ashhab 625057
Dr. Youssef Al Hourani 625478
Firas Pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Naboukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636790
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

NIGHT DUTY

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JERUSALEM

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Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Naboukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636790
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Abdel Maternity, J. Amn 644412
The Islamic Abadi 661277/1
Al-Ahli, Abadi 661616/6
Italian, Al-Muhajireen 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26
Atany, Marja 89161/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674153
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)883323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)225555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)227273
The Al Nafaw Hospital (02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)3200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
12:00 Cairo (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:20 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:30 London (RJ)
12:40 Athens (RJ)
12:50 Riyadh (RJ)
13:00 New Delhi (RJ)
13:10 Cairo (RJ)
13:20 Jeddah (RJ)
13:30 London (RJ)
13:40 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
13:50 Frankfurt (RJ)
14:00 Brussels, Rome (RJ)
14:10 Athens (RJ)
14:20 Paris (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:40 Larnaca (CY)
11:00 Jeddah (SV)
11:30 Benghazi (RJ)
12:15 Sana'a, Jeddah (YV)
12:30 Cairo (MS)
12:40 Ankara, Istanbul (TC)
12:50 Frankfurt (LH)
13:00 Damascus (PK)
13:20 Paris, Damascus (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
12:00 Cairo (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:20 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:30 London (RJ)
12:40 Athens (RJ)
12:50 Riyadh (RJ)
13:00 New Delhi (RJ)
13:10 Cairo (RJ)
13:20 Jeddah (RJ)
13:30 London (RJ)
13:40 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
13:50 Frankfurt (RJ)
14:00 Brussels, Rome (RJ)
14:10 Athens (RJ)
14:20 Paris (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30 Rome (AZ)
06:35 Larnaca, Zurich (AE)
09:15 Larnaca (CY)
11:45 Athens (RJ)
12:00 Jeddah (SV)
12:10 Benghazi (RJ)
12:30 Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 500 / 400
Banana 300 / 250
Banana (Mildew) 450 / 400
Beans 320 / 280
Cabbage 120 / 80
Carrot 400 / 350
Cauliflower 170 / 120
Coco 150 / 100
Cucumbers (large) 220 / 180
Cucumbers (small) 300 / 250
Dates 500 / 400
Eggplant 200 / 150
Figs 500 / 300
Garlic 1000 / 800
Grapes 400 / 300
Lemon 200 / 150
Mallow 170 / 120
Marrow (large) 100 / 80
Marrow (small) 220 / 180
Onion (dry) 210 / 170
Onion (green) 300 / 250
Pepper (hot) 550 / 450
Pepper (sweet) 120 / 80
Potato 350 / 300
Spinach 150 / 80
Sage 550 / 450
Tomatoes 100 / 80

ESCWA assigns staff to study impact of Gulf crisis on region

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Tuesday ended a three-day meeting to discuss the economic and social impact of the recent Gulf crisis on the Arab countries in Asia and Egypt.

"We are a regional commission, and our duty is to follow up the economic and social developments in Arab countries and to reflect these developments in reports, studies and documents that will be made available to all United Nations bodies, and the governments of the region, in light of the Gulf crisis," Dr. Tayseer Abdel Jaber, under-secretary general of the United Nations and executive secretary of ESCWA said.

Abdel Jaber also added that a team of ESCWA staff had been assigned to study the impact of the Gulf crisis on the economy of Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt. "These reports will be a good reference for each of the countries concerned and mostly for taking proper policies to address the negative effects of the crisis on the economy," Abdel Jaber told the Jordan Times.

Asked whether the reports presented by ESCWA could be used by any government to

submit to the United Nations for compensation (Article 50 of the United Nations Charter allows countries affected by imposing sanctions to discuss the problem with the Security Council in regards to compensation), Abdel Jaber said: "The reports can be used for any purpose they (the governments of the region) wish."

Abdel Jaber said that the ESCWA meetings have not yet discussed and reviewed the economy of each of the four countries in detail, but "we discussed what can be implemented in 1990 and 1991, and how programmes can be implemented under the recent circumstances."

During the meetings the focus was placed on new issues raised in the region, Abdel Jaber said. "In Jordan, a ten-day study will be completed. In this study macro-economics and the general and sectoral effects of the crisis on Jordan will be addressed," Abdel Jaber said.

He also added that his expectations of the various studies made on each of the four countries would come up with an estimation of losses due to the Gulf crisis, which will be supporting other previous reports prepared by agencies within the governments themselves. "But these studies will have more detail because they highlight the indirect effects of

the crisis on the country's economy in contrast with the previous reports which deal only with the direct effects," Abdel Jaber said.

ESCWA, which has recently opened a liaison office in Amman, will also discuss issues of environment in the framework of the Arab regional conference scheduled to be held in May 1991. "In this conference we will work on implementing four projects in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Protection (UNEP)."

The four projects include stemming desertification, studying the ozone layer, integrating the environment within development planning, and remote sensing of water resources in the region," Abdel Jaber said. He also added that each country would be required to prepare a report on its environment and development in addition to ESCWA experts who will be brought in to look into each country's pollution problems, industrial waste problems and other environment-related problems and to submit their findings in reports.

The Arab regional conference on environment will try to reach a pan-Arab environment strategy that will be submitted to the world conference on the environment scheduled to be held in Brazil in 1992.

Parliament, QAF discuss cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Coordination and cooperation between Parliament members and the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) was discussed Tuesday at a meeting attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairperson of QAF's Board of Trustees.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, a working paper suggesting areas of cooperation was reviewed at the meeting. The paper focused attention on utilising social services centres set up by QAF as grounds to prepare local communities to deal with the situation Jordan is passing through.

QAF has set up 25 such centres and plans to create 25 more, especially in the rural regions of Jordan, it also hopes to enable people to reduce energy and water consumption and adopt positive behavioural patterns and to depend more on local resources and national products.

According to the statement, Parliament members and QAF

will cooperate in ways to offer financial and technical support for developmental projects aimed at increasing family income and raising living standards through the implementation of small-size schemes.

According to the statement, agreement was reached to send a memorandum to all Parliament deputies with a list of the social services centres in various governorates so that they can begin contacts with them.

The Princess underlined the importance of cooperation between lawmakers and QAF institutions since, she said, the two sides have direct contact with the local community and are well aware of people's needs.

Deputies attending the meeting included Abdullah Ensour, Mohammad Alawneh, Ahmad Qteish Azaid, Ziyad Shouleh, Aatta Al Shahwan, Dr. Hosni Shiyab, Salameh Gbweri and Issa Reimouni.

Jordan, Soviet Union to boost volume of trade

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and the Soviet Union are to increase the volume of trade between them and exchange goods worth \$50 million annually, up from \$42 million at present; they will also set up trade fairs in Moscow and Amman in order to promote the sale of national products, according to the minutes of deliberations conducted by Soviet and Jordanian officials during week-long meetings here.

To pave for the organisation of trade fairs, according to the minutes, a Jordanian trade delegation will go to Moscow on Nov. 20 to follow up discussions there.

A statement that the two sides had agreed to expand the base of their mutual cooperation in the economic, trade, scientific and technical fields.

In the economic field, the two sides discussed energy and electricity projects, and the Soviet side expressed desire to participate in the ongoing efforts to link Jordan's national grid with those of the neighbouring Arab states and in the projects of electrification of the rural regions of the Kingdom.

The Soviets said they would supply the equipment needed for such projects at the cost of \$3 million, under easy terms and conditions, the statement added.

In matters concerning phosphate, discussion centred on the prospect of involving Soviet institutions in carrying out Jordan's phosphoric acid producing project, alone or in cooperation with other international institutions.

The Jordanian side presented a list of projects in which it hopes to initiate cooperation with the Soviet Union, especially projects related to agriculture and livestock breeding, employing techniques to inoculate animals against diseases and using insecticides and methods of fighting desertification and soil salinity.

The Soviet side suggested several projects it is interested in like greenhouses, and plasticulture and agreed with the Jordanian side on exchange of visits by experts, according to the statement.

The two sides agreed on promoting cooperation in vocational training and setting up new training centres in Jordan similar to those already set up in Irbid, Salt and Masharee.

The two sides discussed the prospect of setting up a joint project for producing potassium sulphate at the Dead Sea, and the Soviets said that they would be willing to conduct a feasibility study on the project and help exploit other minerals from the Dead Sea.

The minutes provided agreement on a joint plan to exploit oil shale, which is found in abundance in the Kingdom, and the Soviet side will conduct studies on the project and report to the Jordanian side on the result, according to the statement.

The two sides agreed on encouraging investments in tourism and carrying out joint projects to build tourist hotels and joint companies to produce home appliances.

At Jordan's request a Soviet veterinary team will visit Jordan to study the veterinary standards here and the local system of health control.

The minutes were signed by Ministry of Industry and Trade's Secretary General Ibrahim Badran and the head of the Soviet team Vladimir Mordinov.

Following the signing ceremony Badran expressed satisfaction with the results of the talks which he said, achieved an expansion in the volume of trade between the two countries.

Badran urged Jordanian industrial institutions to step up their contacts with Soviet institutions for boosting trade.

Mordinov said in a statement that he hoped all the articles in the minutes signed by the two sides would be implemented for the benefit of both sides and that he hoped that further meetings would be held in Moscow to follow up on the agreements.

Jordan to lose JD 100m in agricultural exports

AMMAN (J.T.) — Agriculture Minister Sulaiman Arabiyat said Tuesday that Jordan stands to lose JD 100 million annually, in agricultural exports, at the rate of JD 8.4 million monthly, as a result of the Gulf crisis which cost the Kingdom almost all its markets in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other areas.

"Jordan lost at least 70 per cent of its major markets for agricultural produce like Kuwait, where exports halted early in August, and Saudi Arabia, which stopped purchasing Jordanian exports on Oct. 2," the minister explained in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"As a result, Jordan has lost almost 65 per cent of its overall exports of agricultural products this month, during which the country sold a total of 17,900 tonnes of vegetables and fruits compared to 47,000 tonnes in the same month of last year," Arabiyat added.

Apart from losses in exports, the Gulf crisis had its negative impact on agricultural projects in the Kingdom, like the Zarqa River basin development scheme and the Hammad basin project near the Iraqi border, he said.

"Jordan has been counting on loans to finance such projects

from the Kuwaiti and the Saudi funds and the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Fund, but now can hope for no loans to carry out the project," the minister pointed out.

He said that the Ministry of Agriculture was facing difficulty in floating tenders for the two projects, but it had secured a temporary loan from the treasury to finance tasks being carried out at the moment.

Arabiyat said that the Ministry of Agriculture was trying to offset part of the losses by trying to find alternate markets for Jordan's products in Iran, Turkey and Lebanon, and would try to barter such products with Syrian products in demand here.

To help farmers overcome severe losses sustained as a result of the Gulf crisis and the sharp decline in prices, the ministry has decided to purchase locally produced tomatoes at JD 50 a tonne for processing at the plants in Arida and the southern Jordan Valley region, Arabiyat said. He said that Jordan produces some 20,000 tonnes of tomatoes a month but the total capacity of the processing plants is 2,000 tonnes a day.

Arabiyat said that the Ministry of Agriculture planned to work out

an agricultural cropping pattern system, focusing attention on the production of strategic crops like cereals and animal feed, and would adopt an emergency plan to help the country in the present difficult situation.

He said that the success of the plan, which also entails encouraging people to grow food in the backyards of their homes, will depend on cooperation of the Jordanian citizens and the farmers.

Jordan's agricultural policies, he added, had so far been based on supplying vegetables and fruits to neighbouring Arab states, benefiting from the Kingdom's moderate climate, the rich soil, the low production cost and production of fruits and vegetables when the demand for them is very high.

In another development, Arabiyat said that the government was trying to grow more wheat, which is a strategic product, and avoid any conflict in the types of crops grown in Jordan.

Speaking at a meeting with tobacco growers, the minister said that Jordan has to give more attention to food rather than tobacco and therefore it has decided to reduce the area grown with tobacco this year.

Cabinet announces changes at Ministry of Industry and Trade

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet Tuesday announced its endorsement of a set of changes within the Ministry of Industry and Trade designed to promote the activities of the ministry and to bring it into line with government plans to implement the economic restructuring programme.

An official statement said that the changes, made upon the recommendation of Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Fariz, aim at encouraging Jordanian exports, offering better services to the investors and helping Jordanian products become more competitive on the international mar-

kets. It said that the changes followed in-depth studies which took into account cutting off routine work that used to impede speedy decisions and actions.

The changes are: First: the departments of industry and encouraging investments will be merged into one department to be called the Industrial Development and Encouraging Investment Department.

Second: the departments of trade and trade patents registration will be merged into one department.

Third: the department of In-

formation and studies will be renamed as the Information and Computer Department.

Fourth: a new department will be created under the name of Studies and Planning Department to assume the main task of laying down plans for developing the productive sectors in Jordan.

Fifth: departments in charge of cooperation, insurance companies and administration will remain unchanged.

The Department of Specifications and Standards will also remain unchanged until a new law on industry and trade has been endorsed.

Labour delegation to tour world capitals

AMMAN (Petra) — A pan-Arab labour delegation representing labour union members from different Arab countries, including Jordan, next week starts a visit to the Soviet Union, France, Belgium and Iran to brief their counterparts on the trade union's position vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis and the dangers inherent in the massive buildup of forces in the region.

The delegation will also brief trade unionists in these countries on the negative effects of the economic blockade against Iraq on some Arab countries, including Jordan.

Another Arab labour delegation is currently in China to brief the Chinese counterparts on the Arab labourers' attitude towards the Gulf crisis and the dangers it

poses to the security and stability in the region.

In another development, Secretary-General of the International Federation of Arab Labour Unions Hassan Hammam Tuesday left Amman at the end of a two-day visit to Jordan during which he held talks with Jordanian trade unionists on labour issues, problems of Jordanian labourers coming back from the Gulf and the federation's role in seeking a peaceful end to the Gulf crisis, in an Arab frame work.

Also Tuesday Assistant Secretary General of the Tunisian General Federation of Trade Unions Abdul Majid Al Sahrawi arrived here on a short visit to Jordan. Sahrawi will hold talks with Jordanian labour officials

and trade unionists on coordination of positions on Arab and international issues, including the Palestine question, the Gulf crisis and the impact of economic blockade against Iraq.

Sahrawi will leave for Baghdad to take part in the 9th conference of the Iraqi Federation of Trade Unions.

Another Arab unionist arrived here for talks with his Jordanian counterparts on bilateral relations and talks of mutual concern. Mohammed Bahji, member of the Executive Bureau of the Arab Maghreb Union Workers Association, said his visit was aimed at exchanging views on labour-related issues, means of developing bilateral relations and coordinating stands on both the Arab and international levels.

Ministry, University Hospital sign agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben and University of Jordan's Vice President Mohammad Adnan Al Bakhit Tuesday signed an agreement for the treatment of patients referred by the ministry to the University of Jordan Hospital.

Under the agreement, citizens

covered by the medical insurance scheme will be referred by hospitals and health centres to the University Hospital for treatment. The process will be valid after being signed by specialist doctors as well as the head of the section or the director of the hospital.

The minister has the right to

refer patients unable to pay treatment costs to the University Hospital for treatment. Such patients can be exempted from paying 90 per cent of the treatment costs, according to the agreement. Patients who are referred because treatment facilities are not available at the ministry's hospitals or because of lack of hospital beds, specialised treatment facilities or diagnostic tests, should pay the remaining 10 per cent of the treatment costs.

According to the agreement, the University Hospital will provide all diagnostic and treatment services in the hospital or at its outpatient clinics, and will supply the referred patients with a detailed medical report without any cost to the patient.

All medicines prescribed by the treating doctors will be dispensed to the patient against 200 fils for each medicine, except the analgesic and antipyretic drugs, whose charge will be 50 fils a piece.

The agreement said the hospital would stick to the remedies described in the ministry's list of drugs.

Red Crescent, Red Cross league refuses to send medical supplies unless Jordan abides by rules

AMMAN (J.T.) — The head of a special mission sent to Jordan by the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Tuesday said that the relief operations carried out by teams from Jordan National Red Crescent Societies (JNRCS) for evacuees arriving in Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait were an example of successful joint operations.

At the end of his assignment in Jordan Kees Groenendijk praised the efforts made by JNRCS in

alleviating the sufferings of evacuees and said that JNRCS was qualified to supervise the two Azraq camps. He said that the society had run Azraq I camp, which was set up by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Groenendijk, who left Amman Tuesday, said he had sent a letter to the prime minister, explaining the rules and regulations governing the work of the International Red

Cross and Red Crescent Movement. He voiced hope that differences over the receipt of such relief supplies dispatched to the Red Crescent Society would be solved in accordance with the regulations in force at the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, so that further assistance can be sent to Jordan in the future.

The Red Cross official said the Evacuee Welfare Committee should know the rules governing

the relief operations carried out by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Groenendijk said the International League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is not sending any relief supplies now because the number of evacuees arriving is very small and no one lives in the Azraq camps.

He also cited the failure of JNRCS to take receipt of the supplies sent to evacuees in Jordan and to store them in the society's stores, and the Evacuee Welfare Committee's failure to observe the rules and regulations governing relief operations carried out by the league as reasons for halting supplies.

He stressed the league's policy regarding the dispatch of relief supplies, saying that it does not accept any third party to receive such supplies sent to Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of children's paintings at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (9 a.m. - 5 p.m.).
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Science and Technology Parks" at the British Council.

FILMS

- ★ Opera film festival (organised jointly by Goethe Institute and the British Council and introduced in Arabic and English by Nuri Rubelhal at the British Council); on Wednesday "Der Freischutz" will be screened at 8:00 p.m.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975

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From court to council

THE part of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 674 which purports to hold Iraq responsible for war damages and give states and individuals the right to collect from Iraq losses sustained as a result of Kuwait's occupation should raise some eyebrows. According to the U.N. Charter, the Security Council is entrusted with jurisdiction over matters that affect international peace and security. The charter was never intended, either explicitly or by implication, to extend this limited jurisdiction to reach juridical limits that would allow legal determination of legal responsibilities pertaining to losses and damages of states, much less individuals. Under customary interpretation of applicable norms and established precedents, only the International Court of Justice has the jurisdiction to adjudicate issues of legal responsibility pertaining to losses and damages of individuals and states. For the Security Council to act now as an international legal tribunal and determine legal responsibility for reparations accruing to aggrieved parties is legally not sound and untenable. Such absurd transgression into the exclusive domain of The Hague-based court clearly violates the provisions of the U.N. system and renders the court redundant. Iraq and all parties concerned about maintaining the existing order in the U.N. system protecting the integrity and functionality of the court should present their case before that international legal body with a view to adjudicating the legality of the most recent Security Council resolution on the Kuwaiti situation.

Over and above this profound legal issue, there is also the policy consideration that also needs to be addressed by the General Assembly. It is doubtful that some 90 per cent of the U.N. members would be happy to see the jurisdiction and powers of the Security Council increase so dramatically when the membership of the council is unquestionably reflective or representative of the international community. Why should a mere 15 members enjoy such sweeping powers at the expense of the General Assembly, especially when it is recalled that the entire concept of the Security Council is a feature of post World War II — a bygone era that is no more relevant or justifiable. The exaggerated powers exercised till now, especially by the five permanent members of the Security Council, are no longer tenable on any valid criterion presently existing in the world of today. The concept of five master states dictating to the rest of humanity what is right and what is wrong is preposterous in contemporary terms and should be reviewed as a matter of urgency. As the old saying goes, power indeed corrupts. That axiom was never more true than in the case of Kuwait and the way it was dealt with by the once august body of the Security Council.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Jordan is no more alone in its call on the world to be wary of the danger inherent in a conflict in the Gulf region, and it is no more the only voice calling for reason and a political settlement, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. When the Gulf crisis broke out in August, millions of people around the world were appalled to see weapons and forces being rushed to the Gulf area, making ready for conflict and aggression against Iraq, said the paper. London and Washington led the chorus and the beating of war drums, while Peking, Paris and Moscow were forced to conform to the wishes of the others and go along with their ideas; but not for long, the paper continued. Jordan's voice seemed to be alone calling from the return for reason, dialogue and political settlement; and in return, "ingdom was ostracised and exposed to hostile campaigns as well as an economic embargo, the paper added. Jordan and the world now find a ray of hope in the Franco-Soviet dealing with the Gulf crisis and the new trend towards peace and a favourable response to Iraq's grievances, the paper pointed out. Jordan is not alone among nations of the world that feel the danger coming from the presence and the threat of foreign forces in the region, said the paper, and for this it is grateful to Moscow and Paris; and welcomes any moves designed to bring about a lasting settlement to the region.

Neither France nor the Soviet Union has any interest in a war in the Gulf; and therefore they are both keen on pursuing efforts to achieve a political settlement, says a columnist in Al Ra'i Tuesday. James Hammond notes that Moscow can by no means allow a conflagration to break out near the southern borders of the Soviet republics, and is trying hard through its peace mediator Primakov to avert a war at all costs. France, for its part, like the rest of the countries in the heart of Europe has no interest in seeing the oil of the Middle East on which they depend, go up in flames; and therefore it is doing all it can to stop the slide towards a conflict in the region, says the writer. Hammond notes that as the date of European unity is drawing near, Washington is becoming more and more restless, and is trying to find a way to maintain its control over world affairs, something which could be slipping away from its hand with emergence of the great economic power of Europe and therefore it is keen on controlling the oil resources in order to control the world economy by having the upper hand over oil supplies to Europe and the rest of the world.

Al Dustour daily for its part expressed appreciation of President Gorbachev who has called for the Gulf crisis to be resolved within the Arab framework and through an Arab summit meeting. Both he and the French president supported the idea of a peaceful settlement following a tour of the Gulf area by a special Soviet envoy, and after detailed discussions of the situation there, said the paper. Gorbachev is to be commended also for announcing that Moscow would support no decision to launch war in the Gulf but would rather leave the door open for peaceful talks and dialogues, it added. The paper said that both the Soviet Union and France are in a position to bring about a balance in the war-peace equation; and should Saudi Arabia respond to the calls for political talks to settle the issue, the road would not doubt be paved for peace.

Ecopolitical Forum

The economic content of the military option

AN American journalist was asking me how long I thought it would take the Jordanian economy to breakdown under the pressure of the present hardships caused by the sanctions on Iraq (and those imposed practically on Jordan).

Now the exact date is not the focus of the American attention. The American journalist was more, and probably, merely interested in how the people of Jordan would respond to that eventuality, that is to a situation when the consumers do not find what they need on shop shelves. All indications suggest that the Americans do dream of such a time when the Jordanians will revolt in anger and force their government to line up in the American camp against Iraq, the way Egypt, for example, did. My answer to the American journalist was that when Jordanians reach the point of starvation, or somewhere near it, they might revolt indeed, but against Mr.

Bush's United States not against their own rulers.

Moreover, if the Jordanian economy breaks down, God forbid, fixing it will cost a lot in political, regional and economic terms and the related bills will have to be footed by the same parties that are doing their very best right now to pull down the Jordanian economy because eventually keeping it broken will be even more costly. Before Aug. 2, the Kuwaiti government tried also to wreck the Iraqi economy. Who can now reliably calculate the costs of fixing things back, whether the costs which the Kuwaitis have incurred or those which they still will have to incur?

Very plausibly, the underlying assumption in the American thinking and analysis is that bread matters more than dignity. To them, therefore, hungry peoples submit rather than revolt in defence of their national pride. Most unfortunate,

the United States of America as well as England, have never come under occupation. This is why Americans will never appreciate fully and properly what dignity means and how much it means to, for example, the Palestinians, Jordanians and Iraqis as well as similar peoples (not will Mrs. Thatcher's Britain). To them life thus reduces to disgustingly purely materialistic balance sheet and profit and loss statement of account.

If Mr. Bush and Mrs. Thatcher can have it their way it would literally mean the destruction of Iraqi military power and the Iraqi economy which sustains such power which in turn is the cornerstone of any solution to the Gulf crisis. Iraq is the major trading partner of countries like Jordan, Turkey and Egypt. Therefore, the Bush-Thatcher version of that solution entails almost everlasting damages to the economies of these countries. In the

particular case of Jordan, these damages may cripple Jordan's future economic development. Has anybody really bothered to ask how Jordan, and the others, will be compensated for that and who will do that? Additionally, huge resources will be allocated to reconstruction in the form of fruitless replacement investments which have alarmingly high opportunity costs. A military solution to the crisis will be a recipe for economic chaos and instability in the area for years to come. There will always be countries which will feel either that they are not fairly compensated, like Turkey, or not adequately compensated, like Egypt, not matter how much they get.

If a shootout starts in the Gulf, oil prices will soar to record highs for any period like three to nine months. After life normalises, if it does, oil production will start climbing to record highs, thereby dragging

down the prices to also record lows, given the extra production capacity which has been building up after Aug. 2, the desire of certain oil producers to make up for the lost exports in this period or for their inability to expand production immediately after Aug. 2, and the need to reward oil importing countries which took part in the bloody confrontation, if the low price will not be dictated by them in the first place. Under these conceived circumstances, will Mid-Eastern countries like Saudi Arabia muster adequate funds to pay for reconstruction, ambitious armament programmes and current military spending? If the answer is in the affirmative, will they be left with financial surplus adequate to undertake genuine economic development efforts capable of mopping up the surplus labour in the area? To our mind, the answer is NO, which means that this area will be struck by very high levels of

unemployment, another recipe for social and political disorder.

In a shootout, Iraq will either survive or be crushed. In case of survival, Mr. Bush will have very difficult times capable of driving him to embark on adventurous policies which will herald a period of unpredictable nature in this area, especially if he goes on heeding Mrs. Thatcher's advice. If Iraq is crushed, it is very doubtful that countries like Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, among others, will be able to lead an enjoyable life on or near Iraqi tombs. They will have to answer very bitter questions from future Arab generations. Moreover, imagine the vacuum that will be created in a place bordered by Israel to the west and Iran to the east.

For all practical purposes and by all standards, the so-called military solution solves nothing but it will complicate the situation and breed more problems.

Congressmen urge diplomatic solution

WASHINGTON (USIS) — Eighty-one members of the House of Representatives wrote to President Bush Oct. 26 expressing their concern about what they termed the "offensive posture" of U.S. forces in the Arabian Peninsula.

The legislators delivered the letter to the president through Speaker Thomas Foley just hours before the House adjourned for the 1990 session. The letter expressed concern about reports that U.S. armed forces facing Iraqi troops in the Gulf region have "shifted from a defensive posture to an offensive posture and that war may be imminent."

"We are emphatically opposed to any offensive military action," the members' letter said. "We believe the U.N. sponsored embargo must be given every opportunity to work."

The members said that if all peaceful methods fail, then the president should ask Congress for a declaration of war as required under the U.S. Constitution. With Congress in adjournment, they said, "the administration may attempt an 'endrun' around the Constitution."

"We demand that the administration not undertake any offensive military action without the full deliberation and declaration required by the Constitution," said the letter.

Following is the text of the statement:

STATEMENT OF CONCERN

We, as Members of Congress, express our grave concern about the possibility of war in the Middle East.

Recent reports and briefings indicate that the United States has shifted from a defensive to an offensive posture and that war may be imminent. We believe that the consequences would be catastrophic — resulting in the massive loss of lives including 10,000 to 50,000 Americans. This would not be a "low intensity conflict." This could only be described as war. Under the U.S. Constitution, only the Congress can declare war.

We are emphatically opposed to any offensive military action. We believe the U.N.-sponsored embargo must be given every opportunity to work and that all multinational, non-military means of resolving the situation must be pursued. If, after all peaceful means to resolve the conflict are exhausted, and the president believes that military action is warranted, then under Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, he must seek a declaration of war from the Congress. Given that Congress is about to adjourn, possibly until next year, we are gravely concerned that the Administration may attempt an end-run around the Constitution. We understand a mechanism is being established by which a few members of Congress will be monitoring the situation. This group should not be seen as a surrogate for the entire body of Congress. We firmly believe

that consulting with this group in no way replaces the president's constitutional obligation to seek a declaration of war before undertaking any offensive military action. We demand that the administration not undertake any offensive military action without the full deliberation and declaration required by the Constitution.

The following are the names of the 81 Members of Congress signed the Oct. 26 Statement of Concern regarding the situation in the Gulf:

Les AuCoin
Jim Bates
Anthony C. Beilenson
Charles E. Bennett
David E. Bonior
Barbara Boxer
Albert G. Bustamante

William Clay
Ronald D. Coleman
Cardiss Collins
John Conyers, Jr.
George W. Crockett
Peter DeFazio
Ronald V. Dellums
Julian C. Dixon
Byron L. Dorgan
Richard J. Durbin
Mervyn M. Dymally
Don Edwards

Mike Espy
Lane Evans
Walter E. Fauntroy
Vic Fazio
Floyd H. Flake
Thomas M. Foglietta
Harold E. Ford
William D. Ford
Barney Frank
Henry B. Gonzalez
William H. Gray
Augustus F. Hawkins
Charles A. Hayes
Dennis Hertel
George J. Hochbrueckner
Jim Jontz
Marcy Kaptur
Robert W. Kastenmeier
Barbara B. Kennelly
Gerald Kleczka
John J. LaFalce
John Lewis

Thomas A. Luken
Jim McDermott
Thomas J. Manton
Kweisi Mfume
George Miller
Norman Y. Mineta
John Joseph Moakley
Jim Moody
Bruce A. Morrison
David Nagle
James L. Oberstar
Major R. Owens
Wayne Owens
Leon E. Panetta
Donald M. Payne
Donald J. Pease
Nancy Pelosi
Carl C. Perkins
Nick Joe Rahall
Charles B. Rangel
Edward R. Roybal
Gus Savage
Thomas C. Sawyer
Patricia Schroeder
Jose Serrano
Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Fortney Pete Stark
Louis Stokes
Gerry Studds
Edolphus Towns
James A. Traficant, Jr.
Bob Traxler
Jolene Unsoeld
Bruce F. Vento
Doug Walgren
Craig A. Washington
Ted Weiss
Alan Wheat
Pat Williams
Howard Wolpe

Analysts caution Bush to bide time on Iraq's sanctions

By Charles Aldinger
Reuters

WASHINGTON — With the U.S. government hinting that up to 100,000 more troops might be sent to the Gulf, military and political analysts are warning President George Bush against plunging into war with Iraq.

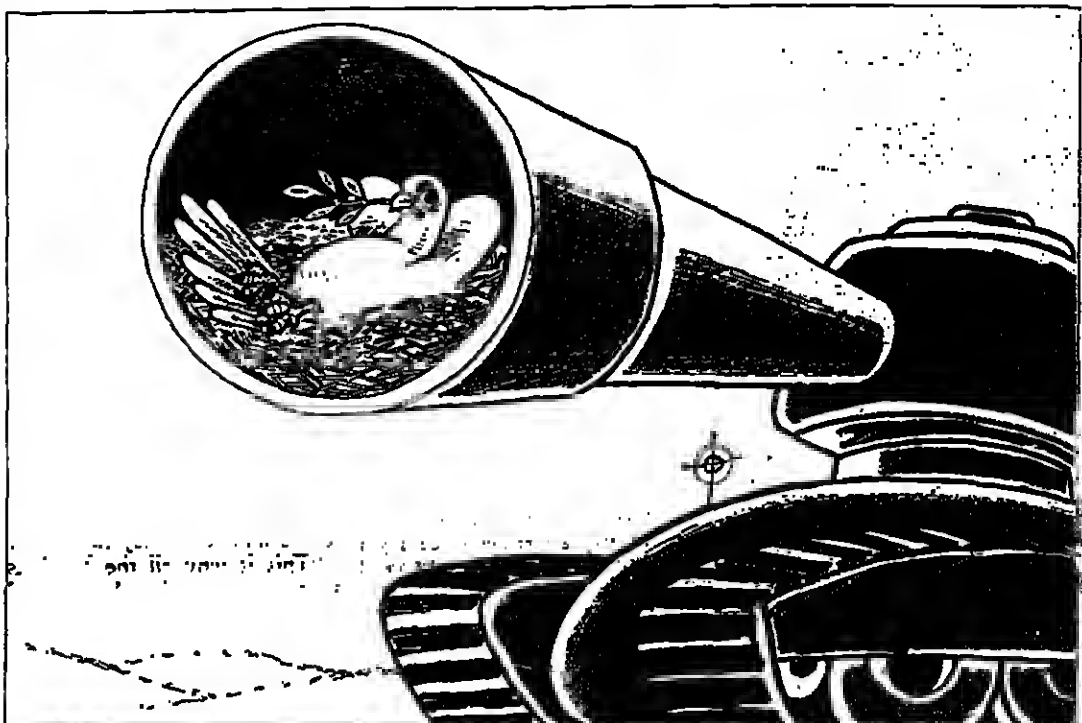
Such an influx of extra forces would push the number of U.S. military personnel in and around Saudi Arabia to nearly 320,000, but experts say an attack now could spark opposition at home and in moderate Arab states as well.

Analysts surveyed by Reuters, and other experts who have commented on the record, said U.N. sanctions against Iraq must be given time. Some wondered whether a major increase in ground forces was warranted anyway. They said any battle with Iraq should be spearheaded by U.S. air power massed in the Gulf rather than ground troops advancing headlong against Iraqi forces entrenched in Kuwait.

"Americans have not reached the point yet of strongly protesting an increased U.S. presence. But if body bags come home, that will change," said Harvard Professor William Kaufmann, author of numerous books on military strategy.

Alan Sabrosky, professor of international studies at Rhodes College in Memphis, added: "If there is an emotional reaction, Vietnam — where Americans saw tens of thousands of U.S. lives wasted — will come to mind first."

Suggestions by Defence Secretary Dick Cheney that up to 100,000 more U.S. troops



might be sent to the Gulf also sparked warnings from Congress that Bush should make clear to Americans that another war could be around the corner.

Sabrosky, a Vietnam war veteran who has lectured internationally on military affairs, questioned whether eight or nine U.S. marine, infantry and heavy armoured divisions were needed in Saudi Arabia to face an estimated 430,000 Iraqi troops in Kuwait and Southern Iraq.

"You don't attack Saddam's (Iraqi President Hussein's) strength," Sabrosky said. "He has almost half of his military and more than half of his armour in and near Kuwait. They are sitting ducks to air power."

Helmut Sonnenfeldt of the private Brookings Institution said the U.S. ground forces presently in Saudi Arabia were inadequate for an overland thrust into Kuwait.

But he questioned the political wisdom of such an attack even if additional forces were sent.

Despite White House assurances that Bush will be patient on the sanctions, Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn said Americans "need to understand what we are committed to in the Gulf and what the stakes are."

The influential Georgia Democrat complained that budget legislation sent to Bush last week authorises him to send up to 200,000 reservists to

the Gulf, in addition to more regular troops, without declaring a national emergency.

"It would be preferable if the president should take that step to declare this an emergency, because it is an emergency," added Democratic Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii.

Most experts say that while moderate Arabs strongly support the presence of U.S. troops in the region now, the sudden use of those troops could change that view.

"The big question is how long we are prepared to wait in the desert. It will take at least six months for the sanctions to really work," said Wichita State University Professor James McKenney, who also has lectured at the Air Force War College.

War or no war, Gulf provides armsmakers with testbed

By John Fullerton
Reuters

CAIRO — With or without war, the Gulf crisis is proving to be an expensive but vital testing ground for some of the world's most advanced weapons.

"Equipment is being exposed to conditions it has not experienced before," said Don Kerr of the International Institute of Strategic Studies.

"You get hot places in the United States and you get humid places, but you don't have anything like northeast Saudi Arabia in late summer," he said.

Sand, heat, huge distances and tortuous communications among allies using different languages and procedures have already thrown up problems, military analysts said.

Even the most basic items of military equipment, from a soldier's uniform to the gas mask he carries for protection against chemical weapons have sent defence firms scrambling back to their drawing boards in search of better designs.

"The Gulf certainly has proved a useful testbed," said Tony Banks, political editor of Jane's defence weekly. "A lot of manufacturers are going to have a close

look at their equipment and the way it has functioned in the Gulf."

The analysts gave some examples of military hardware showing signs of wear and tear in desert conditions:

— Some critics say the McDonnell Douglas AH-64 Apache attack helicopter spends too much time in maintenance, with several

some cases failing to help the user distinguish the horizon in the desert after dark, the analysts say.

— Navigational instruments have in some cases proved inadequate, with tanks getting lost in the featureless terrain. Satellite navigation, already in use with some formations, can solve the problem.

— The influential Georgia Democrat complained that budget legislation sent to Bush last week authorises him to send up to 200,000 reservists to

defences.

— Precision-made infantry weapons are vulnerable to sand and dust. Soldiers have improvised by using condoms to protect the muzzles of their M-16s from grit, the analysts said.

— U.S. and British soldiers should wear pink rather than beige or brown uniforms to blend in with the sand and scrub. The British army sold its last stocks of desert uniform — to the Iraqis — before Baghdad's takeover of Kuwait.

— Tyres of howitzers were bursting in the desert, and one U.S. officer was quoted as saying earlier this month a quarter of them had to be changed in a month's time.

— One analyst said Britain's Challenger tank, designed for defensive warfare in Europe, was too slow for desert battles. Its air-conditioning system was also likely to prove inadequate.

— U.S. protective clothing designed for survival under nuclear, biological or chemical attack required filters to be changed in the hood every hour or so.

— "It takes five minutes to change the filter, so you have to hold your breath for rather a long time," said Banks.

— Heat can also affect an aircraft's electronic warfare pods used to "blind" an enemy's air

members of Congress demanding a delay or cancellation of the \$34.2 billion Apache project. The makers deny any failure.

But the rotor blades of all helicopter types tend to be worn down by the area's frequent dust storms.

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Iraq orders army alert

(Continued from page 1)

leader that link a solution to the Gulf crisis with the Palestinian issue.

"It (Iraq) agrees to have a dialogue with any international or Arab party harbouring no hostile, premeditated designs," he said.

"The remarks made (by the Soviet and French leaders) contained improved positive elements relating to two main factors, namely concentration on peaceful ways in dealing with the region's problems and recognising the link between them, though not in the manner desired," he added.

Aziz said Iraq "welcomes these positive elements and calls on the French and Soviet sides to continue following this direction."

"Iraq remains ready for further dialogue on crystallising more comprehensive and balanced attitudes in dealing with the region's problems," he added.

Aziz spoke of different attitudes among the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

He said China's foreign minister planned a visit to Baghdad and other capitals in the region soon "and we welcome this visit."

"It seems to us now that the stands of the Soviet Union, France and China on the Gulf situation and other questions of the region in general are different in nature and aims from those of the U.S. and Britain," he said.

"It is certain that the U.S. and Britain have imperialist aims in the region sharply contradicting those of the Arab Nation," he added.

"In contrast, there is ground for cooperation, understanding and joint, unbiased interests between the Arab Nation on the one hand and the Soviet Union, France and China on the other as well as with all countries truly seeking Arab friendship."

Tuesday's meeting of Iraq's joint command of the armed forces was the second chaired by Saddam in 24 hours.

INA said Saddam called Tuesday's session to "discuss preparations for urban warfare and the necessary measures to be taken in the event of combat in the operational theatre of Kuwait province."

It quoted him as telling the commanders: "We must prepare all the potential that God has given us to thwart the perfidious intentions of the United States and its allies to launch an attack within the next few days."

INA said the meeting was attended by all eight members of the joint command as well as Defence Minister General Abdul Jabbar Shanshal, Industry Minister Brigadier-General Hussein Kamal and Information Minister Laif Jassem.

Senior officers serving in Kuwait were brought to Baghdad to attend the session, the agency added.

INA did not spell out why Saddam believed an attack by the U.S.-led multinational force marshalled in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region was imminent.

"Explosions erupted said the agency, but it could be a result of the confrontation in the Gulf to force Iraq to relinquish Kuwait."

A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Iraq had offered to free all foreigners in exchange for French and Soviet guarantees against an attack on Iraq.

The pledge came during weekend talks between Saddam and Yevgeny Primakov, top Middle East specialist of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, according to Yasser Abed Rabbo, a member of the PLO Executive Committee.

"If France and the Soviet Union could guarantee that all concerned parties will not use force against Iraq and take practical steps towards a dialogue to settle the crisis peacefully, Iraq will release all the foreigners," Abed Rabbo said.

Saddam said Monday his talks with Primakov were rewarding, but he has not changed his positions.

"Meetings are always useful," Saddam said in an interview with Cable News Network (CNN) television correspondents in Baghdad.

Calling his discussions with Primakov "wide-ranging and very useful," Saddam said he had no intention of making the first statements.

"Not everything that was agreed will come out in the open," Saddam said.

Saddam also said he believed that God was on his side and said Iraq would not shrink from war to hold on to Kuwait.

Saddam denounced as wicked the anti-Iraq international coalition and said time was on his side.

"We believe that because we are on the side of truth, then we are on the side of God, and because God is with us, then everything shall be in our favour, because no one shall be defeated if God stood by him," he said through an interpreter.

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Qasem welcomes Soviet statement

(Continued from page 1)

"The spirit in which the statements were issued and the atmosphere of the summit in Paris reflect the fact that the international community is now responding favourably to His Majesty King Hussein's views which remained unchanged since the beginning of the crisis and underline the wisdom behind the Jordanian position," Qasem said.

In an interview with Monte Carlo Radio Qasem was quoted as saying that King Hussein was very active since the start of crisis calling for reason and dialogue and advocating peace.

"Had his call been heeded there could not have been so many serious developments in the Gulf," the minister said.

Jordan is in constant coordination with Soviet Union and other parties to find ways to settle the issue peacefully and will offer all a facilities to see this come true," he added.

Jordan, he said, wants to see a peaceful settlement based on Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and taking into consideration the other problems that led to the crisis in the first place.

On U.N. Security Council resolutions, Qasem said that Jordan had been committed to all of them since the beginning of the crisis "because it believes Security Council resolutions are binding on all parties and the international community."

The Soviet ambassador in Amman said in an interview with Jordan Television Tuesday the Soviet Union believes a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis should take into consideration perspective of all parties.

The Soviet ambassador said the Soviet Union, since the start of the crisis, had stressed the important role the Arabs can play in finding a peaceful solution to the crisis.

"We believe efforts made only at the international level are not enough. The Arabs know better than others the circumstances in the region," he said.

"We think the Arabs can contribute significantly in finding a peaceful resolution of the crisis," he added.

The ambassador said if a war takes place it "will complicate the situation and will block the way for solutions to other conflicts in the region," including the Palestinian question.

The ambassador affirmed that his country wanted international legitimacy to prevail in all problems of the region.

The French foreign ministry summoned the Iraqi ambassador Tuesday to protest the seizure of Iraqi troops by the French forces in Kuwait.

Hashimi was summoned to the foreign ministry to receive note protesting "the fact that the French diplomats were forced to leave the embassy in Kuwait."

The ministry spokesman, Daniel Bernard, said the note asserted that the diplomats were not allowed to perform their duties because of actions by Iraqi authorities that violated international diplomatic conventions.

Primakov is planning a fresh peace mission to Baghdad, Cyprus President George Vassiliou said Tuesday.

Vassiliou met the Soviet envoy during his stopover in Cyprus en route to Moscow to brief Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on his Gulf mission.

"He (Primakov) is going to continue his peace mission," Vassiliou said after their meeting.

Primakov met Saudi Arabia's King Fahd Monday after flying from Baghdad where he had talks with Saddam.

Primakov refused to answer reporters' questions about his talks with Saddam.

Primakov conferred Tuesday with the deposed emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who thanked Moscow for its efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis.

The Saudi government, after talks between King Fahd and Primakov late Monday, also praised Moscow's concern over the Gulf crisis.

Primakov, a member of the Soviet presidential council and a top advisor to Gorbachev, met with the emir in the mountain resort of Taif, where the Kuwaiti government has been based since its ouster.

The deposed Kuwaiti government has been pushing for a quick settlement, even if that meant an attack by U.S.-led multinational forces against Iraq.

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Jordan, he added, accepted Security Council resolutions on Palestine issued since 1967 and those on the Falklands during the Argentine-British conflict.

Denis Bouchard, the French ambassador in Amman, said that President Mitterrand, in his statement to the U.N. General Assembly "underlined his preference for an Arab solution."

"If the Arab countries can reach an agreement France will be very happy as the USSR and I think all the members of the Security Council," the ambassador told Jordan Television.

"Certainly the military option will be a disaster for all countries; for the Arab countries like the Western countries as we have to make our utmost to try to reach a peaceful solution. But to achieve this objective we need some signals from the Iraqi side and obviously the Iraqis have to respect the U.N. resolutions and the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait as a first step before starting negotiations to solve the Gulf crisis," he said.

The ambassador was asked what the French position was on a reported Iraqi offer to release all foreign nationals in return for a Franco-Soviet commitment that the Gulf crisis will be resolved through political means. He said:

"Our objective is obviously to try to reach a peaceful solution for the Gulf crisis, but I don't think neither France nor the USSR can commit themselves on behalf of other countries. France can commit just for itself and in this respect I don't think that the freeing of hostages will be enough to reach a peaceful solution. Iraq has to withdraw from Kuwait."

Aviv. The failed bid resulted in the U.S. suspending its dialogue with the PLO for not condemning the attempt and expelling Abu Ahas from the Executive Committee.

Tripoli was bombed by the United States in 1986 for its alleged involvement in and support of "international terrorism."

PLF said out of Libya

(Continued from page 1)

The PLO Executive Committee, has been in Baghdad since his organisation hijacked the Italian cruise ship, the Achille Lauro, in 1985. He maintains offices in both Iraq and Libya.

Last May, Israeli authorities aborted a PLF attempt to stage an attack on a beach near Tel

Muslim leaders say Israel planned massacre

(Continued from page 1)

Mohammad Nusseibeh said police told the council on the morning of the shooting that the Jewish zealots, known as the "Temple Mount Faithful," would not be allowed to lay the stone.

"This is why all the Muslims were quietly praying there... and all of a sudden there were tear gas canisters thrown at us," he said.

The report said Palestinians threw stones at police only after they were shot at with live ammunition.

It denied they stoned up to 20,000 Jews praying at the western wall, directly below the mosque. It said they were stoning police. The fact that only a few Jews were injured by stones was evidence of this, it said.

Nusseibeh said the inquiry had refused to cooperate with the Israeli investigation headed by former Mossad secret service chief Zvi Zamir because it did not trust it.

The Zamir report published last Friday justified the police shooting but criticised police chiefs for failing to foresee the violence.

The Israeli human rights group B'tselem accused the Zamir commission of failing to examine the main issue — the police opening fire on the Arabs and loss of

human life.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Monday issued a challenge to the United States by reasserting that the Jewish state will never relinquish Arab Jerusalem.

In his first speech since the government inquiry blamed Palestinians for the Oct. 8 killings, Shamir might have addressed U.S. Jewish funders in a hotel in Jerusalem.

In a veiled reference to Washington's failed attempt to persuade Israel to accept a United Nations inquiry into the killings, Shamir said: "No act by friend or foe has caused us to waver."

Shamir regards a U.N. mission as an assault on Israel's claim to "sovereignty" over Arab Jerusalem.

He repuffed President George Bush's personal appeal for cooperation with a U.N. inquiry.

"We don't seek a quarrel with the United Nations. We want no confrontation with our friends in the United States," Shamir said.

"But if unreasonable demands are made upon us, we have to declare, with a full sense of responsibility and a sense of history, that there is no way Israel can prejudice its sovereignty over Jerusalem."

'Reading the Arab World is not one of America's national skills'

Arab politics are as static as footsteps in the sand

By Thomas L. Friedman

LAST week a Kuwaiti newspaper now publishing in Saudi Arabia reported that President Saddam Hussein of Iraq had dreamed that the Prophet Mohammad appeared before him and said Iraq's missiles "were pointed in the wrong direction." Middle East experts were quoted as saying that this dream indicated that the Iraqi leader could be preparing for a withdrawal from Kuwait. But the White House spokesman, Marlin Fitzwater, asked for his reaction, responded: "No comment on dreams. I have enough problem dealing with reality."

What the Bush administration discovered last week, though, was that such stories are part of the reality of the Middle East. It is a land of circles within circles within circles, where getting at the truth of any particular story or situation can be very difficult for outsiders, as well as insiders.

That lesson was driven home by the flap over an interview given in Arabic by Saudi Arabia's Defence Minister, Prince Sultan, during which he seemed to suggest that the Kuwaitis should make a deal with the Iraqis to get them to withdraw in return for some Kuwaiti islands or oil wells.

The prince said that while any solution to the Gulf crisis had to involve an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia saw no harm "in any Arab country giving its Arab sister land, a site or a position on the sea."

While Saudi officials quickly denied that Prince Sultan was diverging in any way from his American allies — and King Fahd ordered his cabinet to stifle any more conciliatory-sounding overtures — the incident rattled Bush administration officials, and reminded them how little they really know about the part of the world to which they have committed more than a quarter of a million troops.

"There's one thing you have to understand when you are dealing with the Middle East," said Robert S. Strauss, a Texan who was an envoy to the Middle East in the Carter administration. "When you go to sleep at night out there and you look out your hotel window all you see is sand. And when you wake up in the morning all you see is the same sand. But let me tell you, between the time when the sun set and the time when the sun rose only God knows who talked to whom out in that sand and who met with whom and who said what to whom and who cut a deal with whom. You don't have a clue, because when you woke up in the morning that sand had covered all their tracks and it all just looked the same."

No wonder Richard W. Murphy, the former Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, likes to say, "Reading the Arab World is not one of our national skills."



It is simply not something Americans have been called upon to do much. Up to World War II, America's involvement in the Middle East was confined to disinterested missionaries and charitable groups. Only after the war did the tug of oil and the requisites of confronting the Soviet Union on a global scale combine to draw the United States more deeply into the politics of the region.

But unlike Britain and France, the United States never occupied or administered any Arab land, and therefore there is no generation of American policymakers with a hands-on feel for the rough and tumble of Arab politics or for the do-it-yourself of their shifting alliances. The ability of Arab leaders to express outrage and then reconcile themselves with the transgressions of predators tends to send American officials into fits of exasperation.

How this administration ultimately fares in reading the Arab World remains to be seen. The administration has no senior Arabic-speaking policymakers anywhere near the president. Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs John Kelly is primarily a European expert, and his only experience in the Middle East is as ambassador to Lebanon.

The Central Intelligence Agency's most seasoned Middle East expert, Robert C. Ames, was killed in the Beirut embassy bombing in 1983, and the agency is said to have never replaced his combination of operational and analytical experience.

At the next levels down are some highly regarded younger Arabic-speaking analysts in the State Department and the CIA. One reason for the generation gap is that after the 1967 war, when many Arab countries broke relations with Washington, incoming foreign service officers shunned the Middle East or Arabic-language training because they felt there were too few embassies to go to. As a result, there is a shortage today of senior Arabic-speaking officers in their 50s with a wide experience in the region.

Speaking Arabic, though, and living in the region, is no

guarantee for understanding it, as evidenced by the fact that some of what turned out to be the most naive readings of President Hussein before his invasion of Kuwait came from Arabic speakers and non-Arabic speakers alike.

The problem of understanding goes much deeper than language. The contrast between the statements of Prince Sultan last week and those of President Bush, who has repeatedly compared President Hussein with Hitler, succinctly captured the Gulf between their different worlds.

America has always had a tendency to inject ideology and abstract principles into foreign affairs. Interests alone have never been enough to enlist the nation in any grand foreign involvement. The president's rhetoric is larded with absolute terms: "no partial solutions" and "unconditional withdrawal."

But to many Arabs the terms of the president is using either evoke nothing, or something very different from his intention. Hitler was always a much more ambiguous figure in Arab political life. Many Arabs identified with him for bashing their occupiers, the British, or for his support in opposing Zionism. For most Arabs Saddam Hussein is something far less absolutely evil and far more familiar — a thief and a bully. With a Hitler there can be nothing but a fight to the death, but with a thief there can always be parole, or even a pardon.

What Prince Sultan was saying between the lines was not that Saudi Arabia is now ready to negotiate with Iraq. The Saudis clearly understand that as long as the Iraqis are sitting on the Saudi-Kuwait border, they pose a mortal threat to Saudi Arabia.

Rather, what he was saying, in Mr. Murphy's view, was that the distinction drawn by Mr. Bush between unconditional and conditional withdrawal is not so stark in their minds. They see no contradiction between calling for unconditional withdrawal in one sentence and spending the next 10 paragraphs letting the Iraqi leader know that at the end of the day there will be something in it for

him.

At the same time, in Arab political life the inclination is to never totally cut off one's enemy. To this day, many Saudi and Iraqi diplomats quietly stay in contact with one another in many capitals. The symbol of the West is the cross — full of sharp right angles that clearly begin and end. But the symbols of the Arab East is the crescent moon — a wide ambiguous arc, where there are curves, but no corners.

While Washington's inclination is to respond to the Iraqi invasion with sharply defined principles, the Arabs are more inclined to observe their proverb: "Too soft, and you will be squeezed; too hard, and you will be broken."

There was something almost non-Arab in Mr. Hussein's invasion of Kuwait. It left no gray area. It broke all the traditional rules of the game. It was as though he were speaking a different language from his neighbours, which is one reason the Saudis felt impelled to summon outsiders to deal with him. But the passions of August have given way to the relative cool of fall, and as they have, the natural tendencies for deal-making in the merchant culture of the Middle East are reasserting themselves.

What is happening today is a competition between George Bush and Saddam Hussein over which man's world will shape the end of this story. By deciding to send as many as 100,000 more troops, Mr. Bush was trying to tell President Hussein that he has two clear-cut choices: stay and die, or leave and survive. But President Hussein responded with a much more familiar game to his neighbours. It is called in Arabic "Haraka, Baraka" — motion is a blessing. Every day a new group of Western hostages is released; every day a new envoy visits Baghdad; every day the Iraqi leader makes a new appeal to his Arab brothers. Amidst this back-and-forth, the webs of Arab political life, which President Hussein had sliced through, are being spun anew. People are drinking coffee together again, they are talking in the night and slowly Iraq is recentering the Arab fold, looking familiar, no longer like the stranger who broke all the rules.

"The reason we got the initial reaction we did from the Saudis was because they were scared to death," said one administration Arabist. "But I fear that we may be moving out of that phase. Saddam lets it be known that he had a dream, and we joke about it. It sounds very different to Arab ears. He is speaking Arabic again and that worries me."

The writer is the State Department correspondent of the New York Times. His article is reprinted from that newspaper's Weekly Review of Oct. 28, 1990.

U.S. said to discuss timing

(Continued from page 1)

declared that he "would have no hesitations" using force if "provoked" by Iraq.

The president also planned to meet with foreign policy advisers on Tuesday.

The constitution gives Congress the power to declare war, although the president, as commander-in-chief of the armed forces, can deploy troops for as long as 90 days without congressional approval.

Bush has held regular consultations with Congress on the Gulf crisis.

Bush, talking to reporters in San Francisco on Monday, denied he was trying to prepare America for war in the Gulf but said he would not hesitate to order U.S. troops to respond to any Iraqi "provocation."

Baker threatened Iraq with dire consequences if it tried to use chemical or biological weapons to consolidate the invasion or extend hostilities to Saudi Arabia where a huge multinational force is now deployed.

Bush, asked whether he was preparing the country for war, responded:

"No, I'm just doing my job as

president of the United States. I'm not preparing anybody for anything."

Bush made clear he felt he had authority to order U.S. troops into battle — as he did last December in Panama — without consultation if the national interest required it.

"I know the authority that a president has," Bush said. "I am working to try and get this matter resolved peacefully...."

"(But) history is replete with examples where the president has had to take action and I've done this in the past, and certainly — somebody mentioned provocation — we'd have no hesitations at all."

A number of congressional leaders, most recently Republican Senator William Cohen of Maine, have urged Bush not to send U.S. troops into combat in the Gulf without a go-ahead from Congress. Eighty-one Democratic members of the 435-seat House have signed a statement strongly opposing any offensive military action.

The question has taken on new importance because Congress ended its session over the weekend and is not expected to reconvene until January.

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British business survey shows recessionary fears

LONDON (R) — British businessmen believe the country faces a recession even if official figures have yet to confirm it, according to a leading survey Tuesday.

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) quarterly survey of business prospects showed the largest drop in business confidence in a decade. Jobs and exports were in danger, it said.

"This survey confirms the clear warning of recession we gave in July as well as the less promising outlook for exports," said David Wigglesworth, chairman of a CBI economic committee.

"Overall the deterioration has been worse than expected and it now looks as if the business situation may get worse before it gets better," Wigglesworth told a news conference.

Economists regard the CBI survey as an important early indicator of economic trends which have yet to be revealed by official statistics on economic growth and employment.

The economy is slowing down because Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government has had to put interest rates up to control inflation, which is at 10.9 per cent — a consequence of a credit-fuelled consumer boom in 1987-88.

Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) John Major last week said it was conceivable the country now faced recession but this had yet to be confirmed by statistics.

The CBI's Wigglesworth said many of the manufacturing respondents to the survey expected a prolonged downturn.

"Manufacturing industry is clearly facing very tough economic and trading conditions. And many firms are now battening down the hatches and preparing to ride out the storm," he said.

Economists have warned Britain that it faces a steep rise in unemployment.

Yugoslav economic report charts deepening problems

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslavia has slid further into economic crisis, according to official figures.

A federal statistics office report covering the first nine months of this year said retail prices had almost doubled since the start of the year and industrial production fell 10.4 per cent compared with a year ago.

Living standards were 18.1 per cent lower than a year ago, retail sales were down 23.8 per cent, the trade deficit stood at \$2.2 billion and bankruptcy procedures had been started against 771 firms employing more than 450,000 people, it said.

Economists said the government had lost its grip on the economy since slashing inflation in the first half of the year under Western-style reforms launched by Prime Minister Ante Markovic.

"The economic situation is very bad. I see nothing good in it at all," said a Western economist.

The economic data, coupled with ethnic unrest and political rows among its six republics, could also damage Yugoslavia's hopes of receiving foreign financial aid as it moves towards democracy after 45 years of communist rule, they said.

In a further blow to the economy, communist-ruled Serbia, the biggest republic, has heightened a dispute with non-communist Slovenia and Croatia by slapping new taxes on imports from the two northern republics to protect its own economy.

"The measures will have a destructive effect on the federal government's economic measures," economist Kasim Begic told Yugoslav television.

Slovenian and Croatian newspapers said the new taxes ended Yugoslavia's "common market."

The economic crisis that developed in the 1980s after Yugoslavia piled up huge foreign debts has worsened despite Markovic's market-oriented reforms, launched last December.

Growing opposition to the government has made it hard for Markovic to implement changes but economists say he has also not imposed the reforms strictly enough.

Paris gives \$1b aid to Moscow

RAMBOUILLET, France (R) — France Monday announced a five-billion-franc (\$1 billion) aid package for the ailing Soviet economy and told Moscow it could double the amount once Soviet economic reforms have taken root.

The aid plan was part of a package of bilateral economic and political measures signed during a 24-hour visit by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that ended at a chateau here Monday afternoon.

A French government official said about two billion francs in commercial credits would be used to buy French cereals, about one billion to buy French steel and chemical products and the remainder paid to French firms awaiting Soviet payments.

"The French government will meet outstanding payments to French export firms until the Soviet Union settles those debts," the official said.

The French finance ministry said however the share-out would depend on Moscow's needs.

Nikolai Petrakov, a senior economic adviser to Gorbachev, said Paris had promised another five billion francs later. "There will be five billion francs more," he told Reuters. "This will be a second stage."

French finance ministry officials said the second tranche of assistance would depend on the outcome of a study of the Soviet economy being prepared by the European Commission and four international organisations, including the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

The French aid plan, signed by the finance ministers of the two countries late Sunday, was accompanied by a series of economic cooperation agreements aimed at tightening Soviet-French business ties.

Those accords could pave the way for the transfer to the Soviet Union of French expertise in nuclear power, high-speed trains, computers, high-definition television and agriculture.

World airlines to discuss further fare increases today

GENEVA (Agencies) — Major airlines will meet this week to discuss a likely new round of international fare increases provoked by the Gulf crisis, the leading industry group said Monday.

It will be the second time in two months that airlines will talk about fare hikes, which must be approved by governments.

The last meeting in late August set fare increases of up to eight per cent. Sources said any new rise is unlikely to be higher than that and would take effect around the end of the year.

The airline industry, whose profits were declining even before the Gulf crisis, has been especially hit in recent weeks by soaring jet fuel prices. Industry officials say the previous fare increase has not covered higher costs caused by the jump in oil prices.

Representatives of up to 60 leading carriers are expected for the Geneva meeting under the umbrella of the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

The session will start Wednesday and run through the weekend, IATA Director General Guenter Eser told reporters at the group's annual assembly.

The head of IATA said Monday that the world's airlines were flying into cloudy skies because of rising fuel costs caused by the Gulf crisis.

Eser said in IATA's annual report that the financial outlook for airlines, already not very good in the first half of 1990, had been worsened by the Gulf crisis.

"Fuel prices have been even more volatile than before and there have been sharp increases in hull insurance costs for operations in the Middle East," he told airline heads.

It was impossible to forecast the outcome for the full year, but the industry aggregate result would probably not be very good, he added.

Fuel costs generally range from 10 to 25 per cent of total operating costs so any movement in the price of fuel has a serious effect on the financial health of airlines.

Eser said at last year's annual meeting in Warsaw that there were clouds in the sky for the industry.

Now, referring to the Gulf crisis, he told the session: "That is now the biggest cloud in the sky, creating business uncertainty, but also actual hardship."

The 1990 IATA report said that the Gulf crisis compounded a two-year-old decline in profitability despite seven per cent increases in both passenger and cargo transport in 1989.

This was because interest charges rose by 27 per cent while airlines competed for increasingly scarce capital to finance their fleet plans. As a result, net profits fell by 80 per cent to \$300 million in 1989, the report said.

"We have seen higher fuel prices, higher costs of other inputs — such as personnel, user charges and insurance —, we have seen changes in dollar values," Eser said in his speech.

"The result of all that could be dramatic," he warned.

Eser said carriers had previously managed to rebound from financial problems to take advantage of renewed growth. But congestion, particularly in Europe, was likely to remain a major problem for the next few years, he said.

A survey earlier this year by a private research group warned that Europe's airports and air traffic control system could have problems accommodating forecast increases in air travel as early as 1995 and that at least 16 major European airports would have insufficient capacity by the year 2000.

The IATA report said security remained high on its priority list in the light of terrorist acts against airlines over the past two years. Many countries now required passengers to identify their luggage before boarding a plane and there was a growing trend towards full-scale screening of baggage.

Italy unveils plan for bank mergers

ROME (R) — Italy Monday unveiled a plan to merge some of its biggest banks to enable them to compete in the post-1992 single European market.

If the plan goes ahead, it will represent the most revolutionary change in the Italian banking system since dictator Benito Mussolini's bank reforms of 1936.

The Italian state industry holding company IRI announced it had approved plans to merge its \$7.3 per cent controlled subsidiary Banco di Roma and the Cassa di Risparmio di Roma, the country's second largest savings bank.

Also involved in the deal is Banco di Santo Spirito, a former IRI-controlled bank, which is now majority owned by the Cassa di Risparmio di Roma.

But the most dramatic announcement involved two other IRI-controlled banks, the much larger Credito Italiano and Banca Commerciale Italiana.

A brief statement said IRI was studying the possibility of pooling the resources to create a new banking group that would give Italy a high international ranking.

IRI said both ideas were part of a global strategic plan aimed at giving its banking arm a new profile more in line with market requirements.

Monday's move, which will take at least a year to put into place, is one of first fruits of this year's so-called Amato law to encourage mergers among Italy's 1,200 banking institutions ahead of the European market in 1993.

IRI's go-ahead represents the first time that the authorities have broken down the "Chinese wall" that has rigidly divided Italian banking since before World War II.

Banco di Roma, the Credito Italiano and the Banca Commerciale Italiana are Italy's three so-called "banks of national interest," all controlled by IRI — itself another throwback to Mussolini's Fascist era.

IRI has a 66.9 per cent stake in Credito Italiano and has 59.4 per cent of Banca Commerciale Italiana.

The Roman tie-up would create Italy's biggest bank and the 20th biggest in Europe with combined customer deposits of \$5 trillion (€46 billion) and over 800 branches.

The Cassa is publicly-owned and the merger does not represent a privatisation.

Both the other IRI banks are Milan-based. News that Rome had got together its own megabank immediately prompted speculation of another major IRI move involving banks from Italy's northern business capital.

Engineers near chunnel link-up

LONDON (R) — British and French engineers digging a tunnel under the channel are about to make a historic link between Britain and mainland Europe to determine whether their giant boring machines are no course.

A spokesman for Eurotunnel, an Anglo-French consortium building the \$15 billion project, said Tuesday the French machine would stop work later in the day to allow engineers to drill a test hole through to the British side.

A metal probe pushed through the five centimetre (two-inch) hole will determine whether the machines, still some 100 metres apart, will meet or miss in the chalk marl.

British workers said the pilot hole would be big enough to give them "a whiff of garlic."

French radio said "Britain will no longer be an island" after the breakthrough.

The tiny connection Tuesday or Wednesday will be a 200-year-old engineering dream come true and an important step towards the scheduled 1993 opening of the "chunnel" rail link.

There will be three parallel tunnels. Two will carry trains, some of which will shuttle cars and trucks, and the third will be a service tunnel.

French radio said British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and French President Francois Mitterrand would shake hands in the completed service tunnel on Jan. 26.

A Eurotunnel spokesman at Calais, said the current 109-metre gap between the drilling teams would give engineers enough distance to compensate for a maximum margin of error of 50 cm (20 inches).

The first underground encounter between the British and French should take place at the beginning of December, he said.

Thatcher, who just this week spurned proposals for monetary union by the other 11 leaders of the European Community, has championed the project — as long as she did not have to sink taxpayers' money into it.

The link will open after the European Community removes trade barriers in its transformation into a true common market in 1992. Eurotunnel says the journey time between London and Paris will be cut from seven hours to three.

The channel was created at the end of the Ice Age, perhaps 6,000 years ago. A French engineer, Albert Mathieu, drew tunnel plans in 1802 but British fears of invasion doomed his idea.

A previous bid to build a tunnel was aborted in 1975. That venture was backed by government finance and Britain pulled out as costs rose.

The way has not always been smooth for the current project. Cost estimates soared from \$4.8 billion (\$9.4 billion) to \$7.6 billion (\$14.8 billion) plunging Eurotunnel into a series of cash crises.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, October 30, 1990 Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	654.0	658.0	
Pound Sterling	1277.6	1283.3	
Deutschemark	431.2	433.8	
Swiss franc	507.6	510.6	
French franc	128.9	129.7	
Japanese yen (for 100)	507.3	510.3	
Dutch guilder	382.6	384.9	
Swedish crown	116.2	116.9	
Italian lira (for 100)	57.6	57.9	
Belgian franc (for 10)	209.6	210.9	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks closed lower after a day of skittish trading in which declines on a weaker yen were capped by futures-related buying of the cash indices. The 225-share Nikkei index was down 86.1 points, or 0.34 per cent, to 25,242.40.

SYDNEY — Relentless pressure on Adsteam and Associated companies sent the Australian market to a sharply weaker close in relatively thin trading. The All Ordinaries index closed 15.6 points down at 1,329.1.

HONG KONG — Shares fell sharply as rising oil prices and Gulf crisis developments renewed local worries over the Middle East. The Hang Seng index shed 51.88 points to 3,011.65.

FRANKFURT — German share prices fell sharply at the start of bourse trade but turned over was thin. The DAX index fell 16.56 to 1,437.93.

ZURICH — Swiss shares traded lower. The all-share SPI index fell six to 927.7 while the SMI index of leading shares lost 11 to 1,425.7.

LONDON — Shares remained near their lows in thin afternoon trading after a report by the Confederation of British Industry confirmed Britain is heading for a recession and business confidence is at a 10-year low. At 1600 GMT the FTSE 100 was 21.5 points down at 2040.6.

NEW YORK — U.S. blue chips erased most gains in mid-morning as investors realised a positive third quarter U.S. GNP did not signify that the economy was on the recovery.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.			
	One Sterling	One U.S. dollar	
U.S. dollar	1.9495/9505		
Canadian dollar	1.1630/40		
Deutschemark	1.5200/05		
Dutch guilder	1.7135/45		
Swiss franc	1.2895/2905		
Belgian franc	31.28/33		
French franc	5.0895/0945		
Italian lire	1139/1140		
Japanese yen	129.15/25		
Swedish crown	5.6395/6445		
Norwegian crown	5.9035/9135		
Danish crown	5.8005/55		
U.S. dollars		373.25/75	

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2) COCKTAIL
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Cinema NIJOM Tel: 675571

Busi & Mahmoud Yassin in OPERATION 42
(Arabic)
Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00

Cinema PHILADELPHIA Tel: 634144

ROLLING VENGEANCE

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30

Cinema PLAZA Tel: 699238

Ahmad Zaki and Raghdia in KABORIA
Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30

Reagan calls economy 'greatest' achievement

NEW YORK (R) — Former President Ronald Reagan, blamed by some economists for current U.S. budget problems, rates his running of the economy as the greatest achievement of his presidency.

In the first published excerpts of his memoirs in the latest issue of Time magazine, Reagan says the huge government budget deficit is the fault of Congress.

"Presidents don't create deficits; Congress does," he writes in "An American Life," to be published by Simon and Schuster.

Under Reagan, president from 1980 to 1988, the nation had the longest peacetime economic expansion in its history.

But his policies, including tax cuts and reform and massive military spending, have been blamed by some economists for many of economic problems, particularly the federal deficit, the scandal over failed savings and loan financial institutions and a widening gap between rich and poor.

According to former aides, Reagan would not choose what programmes to cut in seeking a balanced budget and instead left it up to Congress.

In his book, Reagan says his failure to get Congress to make the cuts and balance the budget "was one of my biggest disappointments as president. I just didn't deliver as much to the people as I'd promised."

Reagan campaigned in 1980 on a promise of reducing the deficit, which during his presidency grew to be the largest in U.S. history.

Nevertheless, Reagan writes: "A number of things that happened during my watch as president gave me great satisfaction, but I'm probably proudest about the economy."

With tax cuts and reform and deregulation of the financial system "we got government out of the way and began the process of giving the economy back to the people," he says.

Turkish iron and steel giant to double capital

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's biggest iron and steel producer Ergil Demir Celik Tas (Erdemir) will double its capital to 768 billion lira (\$278 million), a senior official has said.

Erdemir's board of directors decided to increase the capital from 384 billion lira (\$139 million) to 768 billion with a 100 per cent rise, board president Seluk Demiralp said in a written statement.

Shareholders will be offered bonus shares of 400 lira (14.5 cents) and right issues of 1,200 lira (43.4 cents) with premium.

The nominal value of each Erdemir share is 1,000 lira (\$6.2 cents). Demiralp said.

Erdemir paid a dividend of 175 per cent per share in 1989 when it made a net profit of \$51.9 billion (\$163 million) following 265.8 billion (\$97 million) a year earlier.

The World Bank-affiliate International Finance Corporation (IFC) was considering an equity participation of \$20 to \$30 million in Erdemir, the sole producer of flat iron products in Turkey, industry sources said.

The company launched a major expansion project of its plants on the Black Sea town of Ergil at a cost of around \$1.5 billion this year.

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4 killed, 20 injured in Ayodhya Indian police repulse Hindu militant attacks on mosque

AYODHYA, India (R) — Indian security forces beat off repeated assaults on a mosque Tuesday by thousands of Hindu militants who want to build a temple on the site.

At least four people were killed and 20 wounded when paramilitary police had to open fire on thousands of militants who battered a huge security cordon around the mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya, officials said.

One group of about 50, led by naked holy men smeared with ashes, managed to pierce the cordon and climb on the roof of the main dome of the mosque, damaging it slightly before being driven out by tear gas and shots in the air, they said.

Hindu astrologers had set 9:45 a.m. (0415 GMT) as the propitious moment to start building a temple at the culmination of an emotional campaign that led to political turmoil and fears of Hindu-Muslim conflagration.

The militants, who had sneaked through 250,000 security men deployed in Uttar Pradesh

state to prevent them from reaching Ayodhya, came out of hiding before dawn to try to break through to the mosque and start tearing it down.

Ayodhya's Hindu residents poured out to the streets in their thousands, defying a curfew, to cheer the attacks. They handed out sweets in a traditional form of celebration when news spread that the small group had reached the mosque.

Elsewhere Hindus gathered in temples to offer special prayers to mark the propitious moment.

But police said the cordon held and they prevented the militants from starting work on building a temple on what they say is the birthplace of the Hindu god Ram.

The row over the 16th century mosque, which militants say replaced a temple demolished by India's first Moghul emperor, led to fighting between Hindus and Muslims across India in which more than 100 people have been killed in the past week.

The army was on alert in most parts of the country to stifle

further violence.

One person was killed in the southern city of Secunderabad, and two in the western state of Gujarat where militants also set fire to two rail carriages.

The Uttar Pradesh state government had mounted an unprecedented security operation to prevent the militants from starting work in Ayodhya.

It sealed roads, halted rail traffic and arrested about 100,000 people travelling to the town from all over India. Thousands managed to slip past barricades.

Militant leader Ashok Singhal told reporters in hospital, where he was being treated for a head wound sustained in a police baton charge, that he had been hiding in Ayodhya for eight days since arriving by motorcycle and on foot.

Militants set up their own barricades around the town with tyres and tree trunks to prevent police buses from taking away those detained on India's tensest day for many years.

They set fire to four police

jeeps and a bus due to carry away those arrested.

Among those arrested in the days before the climax of the militant campaign were the main leaders of the Hindu-revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), erstwhile ally of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's minority government.

The arrest of BJP leader Lal Krishan Advani a week ago provoked the Hindu-Muslim violence and brought the government to the brink of collapse when the BJP withdrew its support.

Singh faces a vote of confidence on Nov. 7 and he is almost certain to lose. He is also hatching a rebellion within his Janata Dal from legislators who do not want to fight an election Singh believes is inevitable less than a year after taking power.

He says the future of Indian unity and its commitment to secularism are at stake.

Dozens of towns and cities were under curfew.

Human rights group charges widespread rigging in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A Paris-based human rights group Tuesday charged sophisticated vote-rigging wiped out Benazir Bhutto's party in last week's national elections.

Ms. Bhutto, the populist, ousted prime minister, charged there was extensive fraud in the elections. But the International Federation of Human Rights is the first group of poll-watchers to echo her charges.

Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party was handed a stunning defeat in last Wednesday's balloting for the national legislature. In polling for provincial legislatures three days later, her party was reduced to a weakened regional party left with significant support only in her home province of Sindh.

In a prepared release issued by the French embassy in Islamabad the four-member team noted the discrepancy between a widespread impression of sparse voter turnout and official figures showing a turnout of 45.6 per cent — higher than the turnout in the November 1988 national elections that brought Ms. Bhutto to power.

Most international and local witnesses reported sparse turnout.

The human rights organisation, with members in 54 countries, charged Ms. Bhutto's right-wing opponents employed "subtle" vote-rigging to massage figures perhaps between the polling sta-

tion and the election returning offices.

Ms. Bhutto, who has been shouting fraud since last Wednesday, charged vote rigging was widespread in 100 of Pakistan's 217 constituencies.

She claims up to 4 million pre-marked ballots were stuffed into boxes enroute from polling stations to returning offices.

Chief Election Commission Justice Naemuddin dismissed the charges, saying "I have not received a single complaint."

But the French report claimed several polling agents were not given certified results following the vote count at the polling station. Instead they have only slips of papers to prove their count.

"Something very important — no official paper with the results was given to polling agents when the voting was over," said the human rights group release.

A right-wing coalition of 18 parties united in their contempt for Ms. Bhutto, swept the national elections, winning 105 seats compared to Ms. Bhutto's 45. Minority parties, independents and ethnic-based parties won the remaining 66 seats. One election was cancelled after the candidate was shot to death on the eve of voting.

Three days later in provincial balloting, Ms. Bhutto's party was routed from eastern Punjab, the richest and most powerful of Pakistan's four provinces. In the

Northwest Frontier Province, her party's support was drastically eroded and in the smaller Baluchistan province she gained a single seat.

In ethnically troubled Sindh, her power base, she could be relegated to the opposition benches.

Election day violence has delayed some results in Sindh and Naemuddin said it could be several more days before a final tally is available.

As many as 33 people died and scores more were injured last Saturday in the worst election day violence in the country's 43-year history.

Ms. Bhutto was sacked on Aug. 6 by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who charged her party indulged in rampant corruption, nepotism, and counter-revolutionary politics paralysing parliament, which enacted almost no legislation during her 20 months in power.

The French group's report was at odds with a 40-member National Democratic Institute which reported polling was "generally open, orderly and well-administered."

A three-member Canadian team also gave elections a clean bill of health, said news reports Tuesday.

Meanwhile the U.S. State Department says it has found no reason to question results of last week's parliamentary election in Pakistan.

Mandela: Japan reluctant to fight racism

TOKYO (R) — South African anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela said Tuesday Japan was reluctant to fight racism and its help for the anti-apartheid struggle had been "absolutely insignificant."

Addressing a news conference on the third day of his six-day visit to Tokyo, Mandela was asked if he thought Justice Minister Seiroku Kajiyama should resign for saying foreign prostitutes in Japan, like American blacks, ruined good neighbourhoods.

"From all the questions I have been asked on this matter, I think the Japanese people are not prepared to counter racism in all its forms," he said.

"They are the ones that put him in power, and they are the ones that elected him," said Mandela. "The matter is best left to the people."

Kajiyama has come under severe pressure to resign from the U.S. Congress but not from his own parliament.

On Tokyo's support for black South Africans, Mandela said the United States had given \$51 million, Britain \$35 million (\$69 million) while Japan's contribution was only \$1.8 million.

"If you compare that amount with the contribution from other poorer countries and, more significantly, from other industrialised countries in the West, Japan's contribution to the cause of the situation of my people has been absolutely insignificant," he said.

India offered a 20 million rupee (\$1.1 million) grant for commodities and \$5.8 million, Indonesia \$10 million and Australia \$15 million, he said.

In May, Nigeria, poor by comparison to Japan, had given \$5 million to the ANC, Mandela added.

Mandela asked Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu Monday for \$25 million for the ANC but was told Japan did not give money to specific political organisations.

Kaifu said his government would study if it could be channelled through international organisations.

The first black to address Japan's parliament, Mandela told the assembly Tuesday: "Our organisation, after 30 years of banning, is considerably handicapped by the lack of resources so essential for fulfilling this task," of fighting apartheid.

Poll shows only 6% support Soviet government

MOSCOW (AP) — Only 6 per cent of respondents in a new poll expressed full support for the Soviet government and half reported having no confidence at all.

The poll, conducted by the independent All-Union Centre for Public Opinion was released Monday by the independent news service Interfax. It indicated that support for President Mikhail S. Gorbachev and his government, headed by Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, has hit its lowest point since Gorbachev took power in 1985.

The poll found only 6 per cent of respondents gave full support when asked, "how much do you trust the national leadership now?"

Nearly a third — 32 per cent — expressed qualified support and 50 per cent had no confidence at all. The remaining 14 per cent expressed no opinion. Interfax reported.

The results were based on answers by 1,356 people in 11 regions across the country. Interfax said. However, it gave no margin of error and didn't say when the survey was done. There was no answer at the centre late Monday.

A poll conducted last summer by the liberal weekly Ogonoyok put support for Gorbachev's Communist Party at 30 per cent, below the Red Army, the Russian Orthodox Church and the National Supreme Soviet legislature.

The latest poll was released two weeks after Gorbachev was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for helping end the cold war. In contrast to his worldwide popularity, Gorbachev's domestic standing has been sliding for years. In the past year, shortages in the Soviet Union have worsened and nearly all of the 15 republics have declared some form of sovereignty.

The poll also asked whether the emergency powers given to Gorbachev by the Supreme Soviet last month will "help stabilise the country's economy."

More than half — 54 per cent — said they doubted the presidential decrees would have a significant effect. Nearly a fifth said they thought the powers would help, and the remainder had no comment.

Gorbachev has issued about a half-dozen decrees so far, including a crackdown on the black market.

Muslims, who make up 7 per

Seoul arrests 40 for revolutionary activities

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's main internal security agency said Tuesday it had foiled a Socialist plot against the government, arresting 40 leaders of an underground movement of more than 1,600 people.

Kim Yong-Soo, a deputy director of the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP), said at a news conference the agency was now searching for an additional 150 members of the shadowy Federation of Socialist Workers.

Kim said the federation founded in 1989 claimed a nationwide membership of more than 1,600, including workers, students, and farmers.

"The federation's eventual goal is to build up a dictatorial Socialist government here by planting a pro-Socialist ideology in workers and thus paralysing the nation's industry..." he said.

He identified the head of the federation, who is still at large, as Paek Tae-Ung, 27, a former head of the student union of prestigious Seoul National University.

The federation has placed people in about 40 universities and set up branches in ten major cities including Seoul and even in large companies across the country, he said.

Federation members were behind many labour and anti-

government protests such as attacks on government buildings and bitter street demonstrations, he added.

The agency confiscated property, including weapons, word processors, password books and leaflets, which had been kept in the federation's offices and at a secret printing company which it ran, he said.

"What has been disclosed so far of the nature of the federation is just the tip of iceberg," Kim continued.

The deputy director of the NSP, formerly named the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, said the 40 have been charged with violating the tough national security law which prescribes heavy penalties up to death for pro-Communist activities.

The widely feared NSP has often been accused by dissidents and opposition leaders of using the national security law to crack down on domestic political dissent.

In a separate development, a senior government official indicated Tuesday South Korea would apply for U.N. membership soon, probably before the end of this year.

"It would not take a long time. It could be next week or next month," Assistant Vice Foreign Minister Lee Jong-Bim said.

Sri Lankan rebels order Muslims out of Tamil area

COLOMBO (AP) — Tamil Tiger rebels killed two Muslim women and a girl gathering firewood in enforcing their order for all Muslims to leave the area where they want to create a Tamil homeland, officials said Tuesday.

Thousands of Muslims have fled their homes in northwest Sri Lanka and moved into government refugee camps, the officials said.

The rebels last week threatened to kill any Muslim who failed to leave the north and east of the island by Sunday. The deadline later was extended to Wednesday.

But the officials said the women, aged 60 and 65, and a 10-year-old girl, were backed to death Monday near Olikulam village in the eastern Batticaloa district.

There were conflicting reports of the number of Muslims who left their homes. Military officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said 18,000 to 20,000 Muslims have fled, most of them to 14 camps in Kalpiya near Mannar Island in the northwest.

But the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress in a statement Monday placed the figure at more than 50,000.

Muslims, who make up 7 per

cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people, have been caught in the middle of the ethnic war between the Sinhalese-dominated government and the Tamils, who say they are targets of discrimination. Tamils comprise 18 per cent of the population and the mostly Buddhist Sinhalese are 75 per cent.

The rebels suspect Muslims of siding with the government and secretly helping to identify Tamil youth belonging to the Tigers. Muslim leaders say their people are being killed because they are neutral and refuse to help the Tigers.

The Tigers were held responsible for slaughtering more than 300 Muslims in two incidents last July. The rebels charged that the government sponsored the massacres and blamed the Tigers.

There was no Tiger statement explaining the threat against the Muslims. Leaflets and wall posters put up by the guerrillas said Muslims must leave Tamil Eelam or die. Tamil Eelam is the name they would give their separate homeland.

More than 14,000 people have been killed in the 7-year separatist war, which flared anew last June following a 13-month ceasefire.

German Communists campaign in shadow of financial scandal

COLOGNE, Germany (R) — Communists kicked off their campaign for December's all-German elections undaunted by a financial scandal and the fact that they are firmly linked in voters' minds to the former East German Socialist regime.

Under the slogan "also in the West, something new," the renamed Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS) held a rally at a Cologne sports hall Monday night hoping to attract young voters with a mix of political discussion and rock music.

The financial scandal that rocked the party over the weekend and almost led to the resignation of its leader Gregor Gysi was hardly mentioned.

"I was disappointed because I didn't hear anything about the party finances," said a 20-year-old man, who declined to give his name as he left the rally.

Police Friday arrested two PDS officials for illegally transferring 107 million marks (\$70 million) in frozen funds abroad, damaging the reform image of the renamed party.

But on Monday the normally

eloquent Gysi, who says he was unaware of the money transfer, skirted the issue.

He declined to address the question directly in a round table discussion with PDS members and candidates for the Dec. 2 all-German elections.

Opinion surveys before the scandal predicted the PDS would poll 10 to 12 per cent in the five new federal states that cover the territory of the former East Germany.

The law requires parties to gain at least five per cent to enter the Bonn parliament.

"I have the impression that we can in fact achieve that. But I am afraid we will suffer some losses," Gysi told a news conference in Bonn earlier Monday.

However, he was adamant that the party would become a force to be reckoned with.

"Those who annexed the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) must now put up with the PDS," Gysi told the rally.

And he received a rousing cheer when he used traditional Communist rhetoric, condemning not only Iraq's invasion of Kuwait

but also the U.S. military buildup in the Gulf.

The party's success depended on how quickly it could restore credibility by reforming, he said. "It depends very much on what kind of renewal processes we introduce."

During the discussion, he even came close to rejecting Marxist theory.

"You must read Marx's theories, but they do not have the answers to today's problems," he said.

As they streamed out of the hall, some of the crowd who had paid 4.95 marks (\$3.30) for the evening which included music from Rio Rein of Germany's top rock musicians, did not seem won over.

"I came because I wanted to see Gysi and there are few alternatives for left-thinking people," said Gitta Speda, a Cologne teacher.

And a 21-year-old student who said he had applied to join the party was still not convinced.

"The PDS not say why they are different from other parties," he said.

Rebel general predicts Burmese offensive soon

MANERPLAW, Burma (R) — The leader of Burma's Karen rebels believes Rangoon's army will launch an offensive against his forces soon to divert attention from its suppression of monks and opposition politicians.

"Recently there have been some small scale fightings," General Bo Mya told Reuters at this village that serves as headquarters for his force of 20,000 guerrillas.

"These may be a prelude to a major offensive," he said.

Last year's dry season push against the Karen National Union saw many long-established bases fall to Rangoon's forces.

As daily torrential rains taper off, Bo Mya sees another difficult fighting season ahead for his soldiers.

"I believe that they may try to launch a major offensive very soon with the intention to divert people's attention from the affairs inside the border," he said of the Burmese army.

He spoke in one of the 30 or so wood and straw houses serving as barracks, kitchens and homes for fighters' families. One bore the unlikely name "Karen University."

Bo Mya said the danger his men faced this year had been heightened by a shipment of chemical weapons from China.

He said the Karen fighters, who have wanted an independent homeland for their ethnic minority virtually from the time Burma became independent from Britain in the 1940s, had no equipment to protect themselves against such weapons.

"We trust in God," he said.

"The better relations between Burma and China will definitely affect the fate of ethnic insurgents," Bo Mya said.

"The Kachin and Shan, which operate along the Burmese-China border, may face further difficulties in view of stronger Burmese

China cooperation, besides the weapon supplies that they used to get from China that they won't get anymore."

Diplomats in Rangoon have documented the warning of ties between Rangoon and Peking and say a deal has been struck for China to provide military aircraft to Burma's ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

But they say they know nothing of a shipment of Chinese chemical weapons.

Bo Mya is chairman of the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB), which groups 21 anti-Rangoon organisations, 12 of them ethnic minority groups fighting for autonomy.

He said the DAB would meet at the village on Nov. 12 to consider what action to take to counter the latest moves by SLORC to silence dissent.

SLORC has arrested 350 monks and scores of leading members of the National League for Democracy (NLD) to solidify its hold on power for years to come, diplomats said.

"People inside Burma are very unhappy over the military actions against the monasteries," Bo Mya said. "There will be another uprising in the very near future."

In 1988 the people of Burma rose en masse to call for democracy and an end to a quarter century of militaristic rule that had turned one of Asia's richest countries into one of the world's poorest. The uprising was put down by bullets and the generals of the SLORC took power.

The NLD overwhelmingly won an election in May, but SLORC has refused to cede power.

"If only people can pick up courage, and I hope it won't be very long, then they will rise up again," the guerrilla general said.

"The junta will then have to either flee the country or step down."

Philippine bridge collapses killing at least 2

MANILA (R) — A concrete bridge packed with vehicles collapsed in Manila Tuesday, toppling trucks, cars and a taxicab into a river and killing at least two people, Philippine police said.

About 30 other occupants of 10 vehicles that fell six metres into the river swam ashore or were rescued by fishermen.

Divers hunting for more survivors said the muddy water hampered their search.

The only bodies recovered after hours of searching by coast guard frogmen and fishermen were those of a man and a five-year-old boy, police said.

"We've run out of oxygen," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Mike Cobrado, head of a coast guard underwater team. "If there are any more people below, they are either pinned down under the bridge or buried in the mud."

Residents said the bridge had apparently weakened after it was cracked by a major earthquake last July that killed more than 1,600 people in the Philippines.

The vehicles were jammed bumper-to-bumper in stalled traffic on the two-lane bridge when one side collapsed, police said.

"The bridge suddenly collapsed and the vehicles fell in slow motion," said Danny Escorial, 36, who survived after his taxi sank into the water.

"The water surged into my cab and I got out and swam ashore. I had two passengers, both men. I saw one of them get out. I didn't see the other man. But I saw several others swimming," Escorial told reporters.

COLUMN

Lottery ticket left as tip is worth \$25,000

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island (AP) — Keith Thomlinson is used to getting pretty decent tips as a bartender at a restaurant near the Newport Beaches, but it took a little luck to earn a \$25,000 gratuity. Russell Clark, a frequent patron at the Greenhouse Inn and restaurant, left Thomlinson an instant lottery ticket as a tip Wednesday. When Thomlinson finally got around to scratching off the numbers on the instant "baseball" game, he discovered he had won the \$25,000 grand prize. After about \$6,200 in state and federal taxes, he carried home nearly \$19,000. "It sat there for almost two days until I scrubbed it off," Thomlinson said Monday. "I was just shocked." Thomlinson, 42, shared his good fortune. He gave \$1,800 to Clark and \$5,000 to his parents.

Student wins Vietnam beauty contest

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — A 21-year-old college student has won the latest national beauty contest in Vietnam, where Communist authorities began allowing such pageants only two years ago. Nguyen Dieu Hoa, of the Hanoi Foreign Languages College, recently was crowned Miss Tien Phong 90, the official Vietnam News Agency reported Tuesday. The Tien Phong, or Vanguard, weekly magazine for youths also had sponsored the nation's first beauty contest since the Communist party came to power in April 1975. That competition also was held in Hanoi, the state capital, in November 1988. Societal strictures have been relaxed since the pragmatic administration of party chief Nguyen Van Linh took over in late 1986.

Traffic jam snarls bank robber

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong's most notorious bank robber who did a "bank robber who jumped into a cab to make his escape Tuesday, only to run smack into a solid traffic jam. Police in the crowded British colony said a bank clerk dragged the thief and his haul of 21,000 dollars (\$2,700) from the stationary taxi.

Nude buyers swamp record store

SYDNEY (R) — An Australian record store's annual "nude day" went off without a hitch with 70 men and women turning up naked to claim a free record. Pascal Brogan, manager of Gaslight Records in Melbourne, said the "nude day" promotion had been a great success on the hottest day in Melbourne for 33 years. Temperatures reached 33 degrees Celsius (91 Fahrenheit). "The police took it pretty much as a laugh," Brogan said Monday. "We had one woman who came in dressed as a policeman and proceeded to strip down to her nothing. 'We only have one nude day a year — any more and our hearts couldn't stand it. But it does give us useful exposure.'"

Rare animals killed in China

PEKING (R) — Protected animals are being slaughtered by hunters in southern China because of official negligence, lack of funds and an abundance of private firearms, an official newspaper said Monday. The People's Daily said hundreds of rare animals in Yunnan province had been killed this year in wildlife reserves. The newspaper called for stiffer penalties for illegal hunters. It said one elephant, 28 wild oxen, four leopards, one gibbon, one green peacock, three pythons, 20 black bears, 20 red deer and 18 blue sheep were illegally killed since the end of 1989. "Even the extremely precious Yunnan golden monkey has not escaped being slain," said the newspaper. "A most serious aspect is that there are over 400,000 registered hunting guns in the province." It added, "One area had only 150,000 inhabitants but 15,000 registered hunting guns, it added. China has suffered severe environmental damage over the last decade as its population has surged and vast tracts of forest — habitat for many wild animals — have been felled. Nature reserves have been set up and laws protecting wild animals passed. But the newspaper said laws counted for little in Yunnan where they had not been enforced and where government-allocated funds for animal protection were paltry.